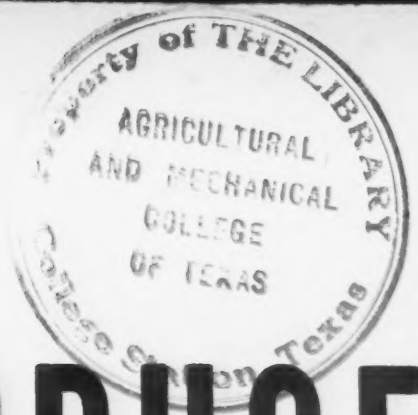


AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



NOVEMBER 1940



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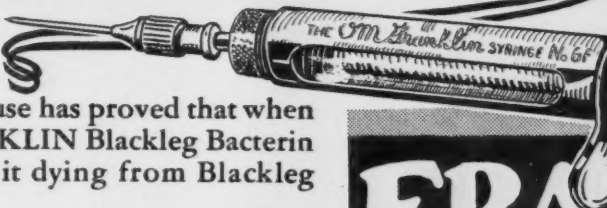
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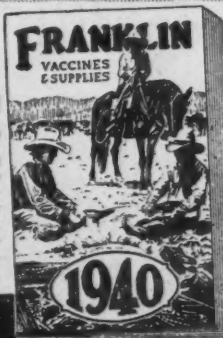


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LETTERS

GOOD SALE

Top steer calves sold at our Highland Hereford Breeders' Association sale at Marfa, Texas, October 4 brought \$16. The animals were those of George Jones, of Marfa. Average price on the steer calves was \$13; heifer calves, \$11.06; and steer yearlings, \$10.92. In weights, the steer calves averaged 402 pounds; heifer calves, 394 pounds; and steer yearlings, 619 pounds. We had the largest attendance we have ever had, with visitors here from sixteen states. Cattle went into twelve states. Cattle are moving out fast. Enclosed is our check in the sum of \$357.82 for the American National Livestock Association.—A. J. HOFFMAN, Marfa, Tex.

RECOMMENDS BOOKKEEPING BOOK

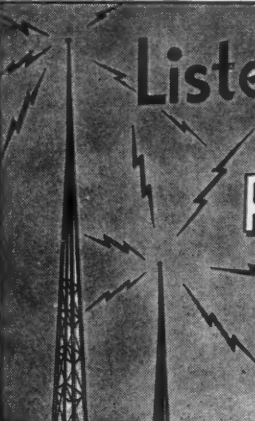
As a user of one of Mr. Saunderson's record books for the past two years I

would like to express my appreciation of such a book for a western cattleman. Before getting one of these books, I had been trying to find a bookkeeping set suitable for a cattle ranch that was simple to keep but at the same time comprehensive, accurate, and covered all phases. I find that Mr. Saunderson's record book is not only very reasonably priced but covers all points of cattle ranching from grazing, feeding, and weather records to financial records all in one book under printed heads and columns that require little time to mark down. The financial records can be proved to be absolutely correct very simply when used in conjunction with a check book. Since your bank accurately keeps your bank statement, you can check your columns of expenses or income with your statement, thus saving the time and complication of double-entry bookkeeping. A few minutes a day or week is all that is necessary to keep the book up. At the end of the year, it is very interesting and satisfac-

tory to know that the figures are correct. One can analyze what the cost of a pound of beef is from these records. By using some bulletins written on costs of operating and raising beef in western states, one can gain a very good idea of how he compares with the average ranch and learn what are his weak points and what his strong points. When income-tax time comes, one has a financial summary on one page that will cover all the information the government requires. I cheerfully recommend this record book to anyone wishing to ranch in a thoroughly businesslike way.—ALEX CHRISTIE, Grant, Mont.

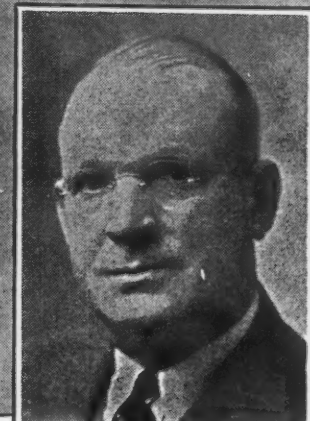
EXCELLENT INFORMATION

I think there is a world of excellent information for stockmen in the copies of the PRODUCER I have seen and I congratulate you on putting out a very worth while paper.—E. T. YORK, Buffalo County, Neb.




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Photo by Chas. Belden, Pitchfork, Wyoming.

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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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(Published monthly at 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado, by American National Live Stock Association Publishing Company. Entered as second-class matter June 11, 1919, at Post Office, Denver, under Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on September 21, 1921. Subscription price: U. S., \$1.00 a year; Canadian and foreign, \$1.50.)

Volume XXII

NOVEMBER 1940

Number 6

COWS AND CURIOSITY

By J. FRANK DOBIE

To my dear and delightful brother, Elrich H. Dobie. I could get more milk from the cows, but he was champion at riding the calves.

IN THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES, responsible for rearing the young, instinct is generally stronger than in the male. It was markedly strong in the longhorn cow. The only help the bull ever gave the young was in hooking off wolves or other predatory animals. Before entering a swift stream, the cow maneuvered to place her calf on the upper side, thus protecting it against being swept away.

She was cunning in hiding her calf, and, even though she might be a gentle milk cow, her fixed purpose was to prevent anyone's seeing her infant before it was strong enough to run. A child or a dog coming near the concealed calf stood in danger of attack. A man might watch the cow for hours, intent on finding where her calf was hidden; but, so long as she knew she was watched, she would stay away from it. Wild or gentle, she would do her best to keep from being driven far from the vicinity of the calf. She might be driven a certain distance; then the only way, as a rule, to get her a step farther was to drag her.

"General" Sears was not a cowman; he was a tenderfoot acting as a cowboy. "One day," he records, "I was driving a herd of [Texas] range cattle toward the ranch house on the Arkansas River, when suddenly a cow dodged out of the herd and ran toward the hills. I followed and tried to drive her back. I did not know at the time that she had a young calf concealed in the grass in the hills. . . . Suddenly she became enraged and quickly turned and charged, and, before my pony could get out of the way, she drove her sharp, slender horns through its breast, causing its death within a few minutes. I drew my revolver, intending to shoot the cow, but she walked quietly away. I had to carry my heavy cowboy saddle about three miles."

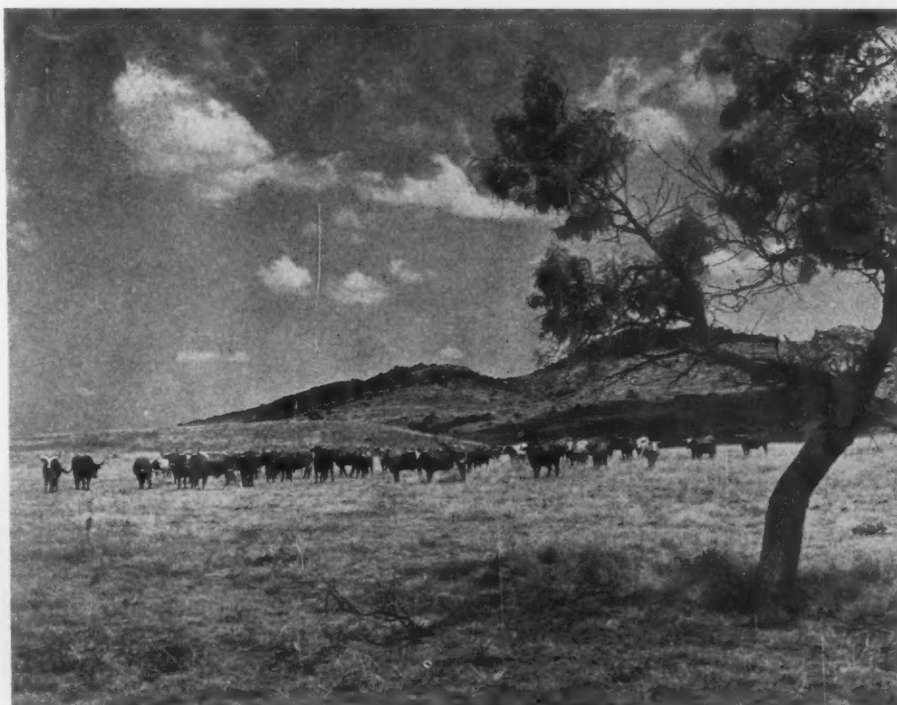
Frank Wilkeson's cows habitually went into the dense, tall grass of a certain bottom land to bring forth their young, and there they would keep their calves hidden until they were three or four days old. "Once," he says, "I desired to see

the young calves and rode into the grass to hunt for them. After assiduous search I found one calf lying prone upon the earth, its head and neck pressed into the thick mat of old grass that lay on the ground. The little creature lay perfectly quiet, watching my horse. It did not so much as wink its dark eyes when I dismounted and extended my hand toward it. I leaned over it. It watched me intently but did not stir. I dropped my hand upon its head. Instantly it was on its feet and calling loudly for protection, calling that the wolf . . . had come.

"I heard twenty mother cows bellow in answer. The dry grass snapped and cracked in all directions as the maddened cows rushed to their young. I mounted my horse and rode quickly away from that spot. Each cow ran in a direct line to the place where her calf was hidden. The entire herd grazing out from the covert rushed thither. What an uproar there was! Cows, bulls, steers, all calling loudly in angry, excited tones. I had a foolish setter dog with me. . . . The

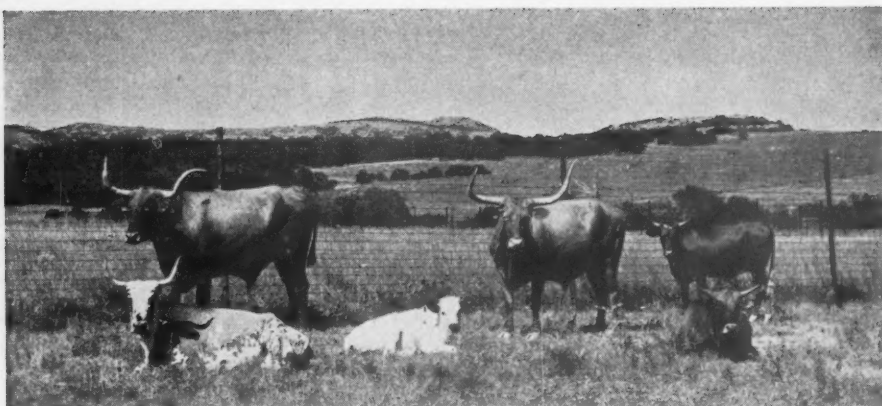
first cow that saw him bellowed to the others that she saw the wolf. They all pursued him, and he, dog-like, fled to me for protection. They gave me a brisk chase as I galloped over the prairie. The herd was angry and excited for hours."

As a boy on a ranch in southern Texas, I had the task of going out horseback of an evening and driving up the milk cows. There were certain cows that we milked year after year; breaking new ones was troublesome and we had tested many to select the best milkers. Out in "the big pasture" I would occasionally find one of the gentle cows that had just calved and that I wanted to bring in. If her calf was not visible, I would hang around her for an hour or two hoping against experience that she would go to it; I would imitate the distressed bleat of a calf; she would remain utterly indifferent. Finally, my animosity aroused by her stubborn calmness, I would start her toward the ranch and then when she refused to go farther would run her, knowing that she wouldn't—but hoping that she would—go to the calf. Sometimes I would "chouse the daylight out of her." Her patience was always longer than mine, though, if I found her with her calf and it could walk, she could be worried to the pens she knew so well.



Part of government herd at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.

Payne Photo, Austin, Tex.



Payne Photo, Austin, Tex.

Typical members of the Wichita herd.

There was Pet, a black cow splotched with blue-white patches, that we children had ridden when she was a calf and that always raised excellent saddle calves. There was Old Paint, with a crumpled horn and undying fire in her spirit; a strain of Holstein blood made her give more milk than any other two cows we had. There was Hookey, a red with brindle marks so faint that they barely showed except when she was wet from rain; she would never allow our dog Joe in the pen, and one time she tossed my sister Fannie into the air. Muley, a little, meek, long-haired roan, could be imposed upon to raise any orphaned calf we put with her; she mothered dogies every spring and the adopted calf always got more milk than her own. Old Sabina, speckled red and white, had an excess of ticks and her horns had been sawed off in order to cure her of the "hollow horn." Clabber—a white cow, of course—was as patient as any ox and never kicked, but her tail was so long and active that it was generally tied to her legs during the milking operations.

I remember a pen full of these cows with affection. I can see them now chewing their cud and licking their calves; I can see the blackbirds picking ticks off them. I can smell their strong, good, wholesome breaths. I can hear the placid but affectionate moos with which each calf was greeted as it came through the gate from the calf pen to suck until the teats were well moistened and the flow of milk started, then to be tied off while white streams were squeezed musically into the buckets. In blood these cows were far superior to straight Mexican cows, but the best qualities of the longhorn were dominant in them. What mothers they and their type were!

The newborn calf of a longhorn cow would bristle up at the presence of a shepherd dog and run; a pedigreed Durham calf will walk innocently up to any kind of dog and smell of it, hunting for milk. The longhorn calf, if chased away from its lair during the absence of its mother, would, like a fawn or a kid antelope, go back to the spot where it last suckled, there to await its dam. Unless dead or in prison, she would meet it.

If particularly wild or cautious, she would upon approaching the spot where

she had left her calf give only a low moo that carried well to its ears but not to others. However, if she became separated from her calf in a herd, then she would almost bawl her insides out. There are few sounds more distressing than the continual bawling of a cow for her calf or of many thirsty cows for water.

THE expression "cow talk" usually means talk by cowmen about cows, but cows of the Texas breed were at times as forcible in their own talk as in gestures. John Lomax tells a story that kind of brings in this talk.

A few years ago he went to the S M S cowboy reunion at Stamford, Texas. He was sitting on the ground with two old waddies, Jeff Hanna and Ed Nichols, watching the performance in the arena below, when he noticed Will Rogers almost by his side. Rogers had slipped in unannounced and wanted to watch instead of being watched. However, he was glad to see Lomax and gladder still to meet the veteran cowhands that Lomax introduced.

"How long you been out in this country, Jeff?" Will Rogers asked.

"Why, Will, when I come out here, the sun was jest about as big as a saucer." Then Jeff went on to tell about Ed Nichols.

"Now, Ed here," he said, "is one of the kindest-hearted fellers you ever see. When he was riding west from Bosque County one time, he sorter found it convenient to ride in the night."

"Uh, huh," and some winks.

"Well, he was coming along way late and the moon was down and it was as dark as the inside of a cow. He was in a bottom, down clost to a running creek, when he begun to hear a cow bawling, but he couldn't locate her. He seemed to be near her, and he knew from the way she was going on she was in trouble and appealing for help. You know how one of them old-timey cows could talk."

"She shore could," Will Rogers agreed.

"Well, d'reckly Ed here got down off his horse and begun feeling along the ground. Purty soon he come to the edge of an old well, and then he realized the cow had fell in. She didn't seem to be hurt, though, from the way she was talk-

ing. Ed knew he couldn't pull her up by hisself with a rope, but he jest couldn't ride off and leave her, on account of his soft heart.

"What you guess he did? Well, as I said, he was clost to a running creek. He went to the water and got a hatful of it and brought it back and poured it in the well. He kept packing water that away till daylight, the cow sorter floating and swimming until finally the water was high enough for her to scramble out.

"Then you know she turned around and tried to hook Ed."

"Yea, I know," and Will Rogers was off on the way an old poor cow pulled out of a bog-hole would invariably make her first wobble in an attempt to hook the man who was trying to help her—not necessarily, however, because of his soft heart.

One of the most delightful pieces of natural history pertaining to the range ever recorded is found in a chapter called "A Texas Nursery," by an educated English rancher named R. B. Townshend. Riding one day over his range, still unfenced, in Colorado, he came upon a cow "lowing most mournfully and looking anxiously back over the prairie. That unhappy voice told plainly enough that she was in dire distress over her calf, and I galloped up to see what was wrong. She was a big white American cow, a strain of shorthorn in her veins. There, sure enough, about three hundred yards behind her, lay her newly born calf, under the scanty shadow of a soapweed. She had been brought out from the States, and came of gentle domestic stock, too domestic, perhaps, for life on the range.

"The calf was not yet strong enough to follow its mother over the three long miles to the watering place, where all the rest had gone; and when his strength gave out he had lain down in the only bit of shade he could find. His mother, tortured by thirst, had hurried on without him, and then halted, with divided mind. Thirst pulled her feverishly on toward the water; mother-love plucked at her heartstrings to drag her back to her calf. And here the poor fool had stood for an hour, making the prairie echo to her distracted wails, and telling any wolf lurking within a mile of her that the bell was ringing for his dinner.

"I dismounted beside the calf, picked him up, heaved him into the saddle, and climbed back and settled myself there with him in my lap.

"Small chance should I have had of doing it if the mother had been one of my warlike Texas cows, a fierce, wild daughter of the desert. But this gentle, idiotic creature offered no objection; she was accustomed to devolving her maternal responsibilities on man, and she shambled along behind me with docile content, only lowing at intervals to tell her son she was there, as we made straight for the water-holes.

"There I left the pair, safe in the pro-

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

tection of numbers, a thousand head of range cattle being strung all up and down the creek.

"I turned back to the rolling prairie, and as I went I noticed half a dozen dun and brindle Texas cows, who had already slaked their thirst, traveling steadily away from the water in the same direction as myself. A few young heifers and steers accompanied them, though the mass of the cattle, as I well knew, would stay by the water till the heat of the day was over; but this party of long-horned, long-legged Texas ladies clearly had business elsewhere. . . . An old brindle cow with rings out to the end of her horns was leading the travelers. . . . They struck into one of the innumerable cattle trails leading from the high pastures to the water and pressed up it, traveling one close behind the other at a steady walk that occasionally became a trot. I rode parallel to them, curious to see the goal they were making for so eagerly.

"Up we went into the high rolling sand hills, and there, in the middle of them, in a little cup-like hollow, I saw a regular nursery. Eight little dun-colored Texas calves lay there, squatted close to the sandy ground which their coats matched so well, their heads lying out flat, with the chins pressed down on the sand, just as little antelope fawns would have crouched. In this pose they were all but invisible. Beside them lay two elderly Texas cows, whose office had been to guard the crèche.

"The mothers, who had traveled till now in perfect silence, began to low loudly and lovingly when they caught sight of their offspring, and in a moment each young hopeful had jumped up and rushed to his own dam, where his wriggling tail and nuzzling head, the busy lips frothing with milk, soon showed he was getting the dinner he had waited for so patiently. Meantime the two guardian cows had risen to their feet, and lost no time in starting off in their turn to make their trip to the water, leaving their own two calves safe in the care of the rest of the band.

"The system of mutual protection was perfect. Brer Wolf might prowl around and watch with hungry eyes till his lips watered—there was no chance for him to get veal for his dinner while the sharp horns of those fierce Texas mothers guarded their children. Broadly speaking, one might say the Texas cow, the cow of the wilderness, evolved an institution that has enabled her and her offspring to survive the dangers of savage life.

"This institution has been long superseded by the civilized life of the farm for the well-bred shorthorn cow; but, take her away from her sheltered surroundings and turn her loose on the range, and she is as helpless as most duchesses would be if left on a desert island. The pedigree daughter of fifty prize-winners must inevitably succumb to the dangers of her new life unless she has initiative enough to revert to the social system of her own primitive

November, 1940

ancestors who fought with the wolf and bear in the woodlands of early Britain."

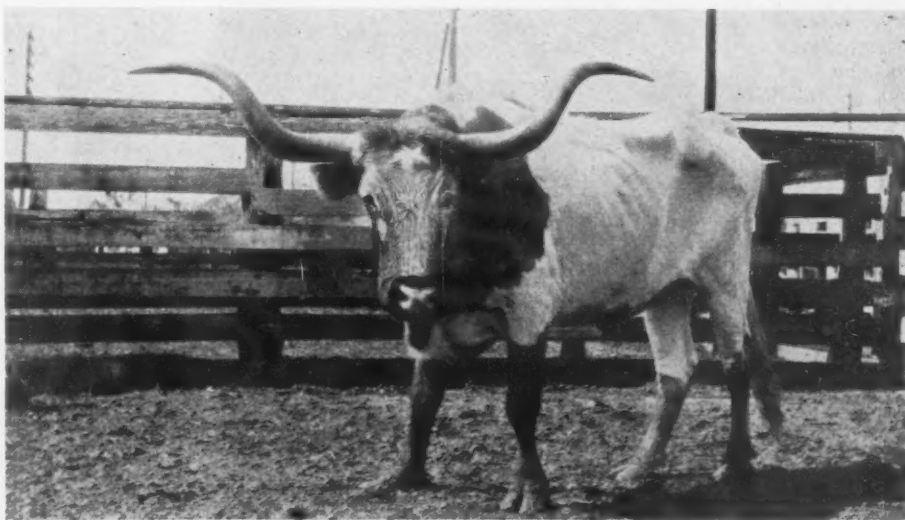
THE most dangerous enemy that cattle of the open range knew was the wolf—not the coyote, which seldom molests even the tiniest calf and never thinks of attacking any animal of strength, but the lobo, which in bands brought down even old buffalo bulls cut off from the herd. The longhorns were probably more effective against lobos than were the buffaloes. John Williams, who has for many years worked on the great lobo-infested Babilcora range of western Chihuahua and who has seen Herefords there displace the best grade of Mexican cattle, told me that he once came upon three lobos pulling down a calf; about the time he arrived on the scene, seven Mexican cows arrived also and chased the wolves into the breaks. The Mexican cattle thrived and increased and multiplied surrounded by lobos, but the Herefords had to be protected; man had to kill the lobos off in order for the whitefaces to maintain existence.

There are very few lobos in the United States now, but the range is infested with a worse enemy, the disgusting screw-worm. Nowadays the calves of all fine-haired animals have to be doctored against this enemy. Soon after the calf is born, blow-flies deposit their eggs on its navel and, also, under the cow's tail. The longhorn cow licked the worms out of herself and out of the calf, no medical attention from man being required. For this reason alone many a ranchman of South Texas hated to give up the breed. If a longhorn got worms in some part of its anatomy that it could not lick, it would, like a deer, stand for long hours in water until the worms were suffocated. Of course, a wound in the eye or some other part of the head could hardly be self-treated. The long, heavy tail prevented flies from blowing many vulnerable parts of the body. No other cattle tried out on southern ranges have been able to cope with this deadly, though unromantic, enemy as did the longhorn.

In the days of the open range it was a saying—and the saying had a basis of truth, though it might have been equally applicable to Montana, the Argentine, and various other regions in between—that Texas had more cows and less milk than any other country in the world. Milk was considered proper only for babies and goat herders. The babies got theirs from their mothers; the goat herders, Mexicans supposed to be lunatics, from nannies. The fact that a poor settler with thirty cows did not get enough milk to supply clabber for soda biscuits and that a cowman with three thousand cows could not offer cream to his guests, was not always altogether the fault of the owners. "From this longhorn cow I got my first lessons in liquid measure," Joe Cross said. "I learned from her that four gills make a pint; two pints make a quart; and four cows a gallon, provided both hind legs were tied with a rawhide tug and at least one teat was left for the calf."

Yet many ranch people did milk cows, and it was a custom among ranchers to allow poor squatters to catch up and domesticate range cows, provided the borrowers would not "knock the calf in the head with a churn dasher"—would leave it a fair share of the milk. Some cows were fairly good milkers, but it generally took from six to twenty to supply any good-sized household. The majority of families turned their cows out during the winter, not because of the invariable lack of a stable to protect them against northers both wet and dry, but because they were going dry at this time and feed was scarce. "I don't care for milk and butter out of season," was a common saying.

The old range custom was to tie a cow's head up short to a post and then hobble her hind legs before attempting to milk her. An early-day visitor on a Spanish ranch in California thought the milking process worthy of description. "In the morning," he wrote, "two horsemen and two Indians went to the corral. The riders would catch a cow with their



A thoroughly representative old longhorn.

ropes and draw her head up to a post, binding it fast, while an Indian took a short piece of rope and closely tied the hind legs together above the gambrel joint, making the tail fast also. They had a large bucket and several gourds. The Indians then milked the cows they had made fast, getting from a pint to two quarts from each one, milking into a gourd and pouring into the bucket." Many cows remained nervous after being broke to milk; maybe that's why "the wimmin folks" on ranches were not as a rule the dairy maids. Yet most cows become as gentle as dogs.

Nobody ever saw a longhorn cow on the range with a spoiled bag. If she lost her offspring, her bag would dry up promptly. The flow of milk was adapted to nature's conditions. The cows were regular breeders, a calf crop of 90 or 95 per cent being counted on under normal conditions. Cows not infrequently brought calves at the advanced age of twenty-five years.

Steers are not as "crazy" over cows as mules are over mares, but any wild cow on the range is a Cleopatra for magnetizing steers. For example, there was "Old Rud." Her range was the six hundred sections of moisture-forsaken land controlled by the Johnson Brothers of the W brand for thirty miles up and down both sides of the Pecos River, in Texas. When Evans and Means bought the ten thousand cattle and the range rights of the W outfit in 1912, "Old Rud" had not been in a round-up for ten years. The R U D brand she bore, in addition to the W, marked her as having been born not later than 1886. She was twenty-six years old at least, and was described to the Evans and Means men as being a dark red, with black feet and nose, whitish around the eyes, and with sharp black horns curved in so that the points almost entered her own head. Some steers were always with her. On the rare occasions when sighted, she was in the *mesquital*es of the sand hills out from the river. She and her bunch watered only at night, and often they ranged more than twenty miles out from the only water—the river. There was a kind of sentiment in favor of Old Rud, her cunning in eluding man being a wonder; but she was such a demoralizer of steers that she was badly wanted. Furthermore, any cowboy who caught her would have the same kind of feather in his cap as at one time came from killing a bad man. She had worn out three or four ropes that she had broken loose with and had been shot a time or two.

Joe Evans was on the point of a bunch of cattle headed for the round-up grounds, still several miles away, when he noticed a cow shy at something in the brush a little to one side of her path. Joe knew he was in Old Rud's territory. He edged up to investigate what the cow had shied up. He could see nothing at first, but halted his horse for closer scrutiny. Then he made out some kind of animal lying down about forty feet

away, perfectly camouflaged in the brush, weeds, and pear. Looking intently, he made out the animal's head flat on the ground; he saw a curved black horn, then white-with-age eye lashes over unblinking eyes. He knew he was looking at Old Rud. She was as still as a setting hen. She did not seem to be breathing. Without moving his body or head, Joe reached down with his left hand and tightened his cinch; then, working only his right wrist, he loosed the rope tied to his saddle horn. The cow did not jump until she was certain that the man had seen her and was coming after her. When she jumped, a bull and three steers, all hidden in her manner, jumped also.

"She headed for the thickest brush she could find," Joe Evans said, "but I was determined to rope her or skin myself all over trying. She crossed a little opening about as big as a bandana handkerchief, and I piled it on her. When the rope hit her, before it tightened, she ran her tongue out about ten inches and belled like a bull, and here she came back toward me fighting mad. I was going north as fast as my horse could run when she turned back south. As we passed each other, she got both fore feet over the slack rope. When I hit the end of it, I threw her at least five feet high and knocked all the wind out of her. The impact broke the rope right at her head. I whirled and took after her again, for she didn't pause a second in getting back on her feet. She was dodging through that brush like a jack rabbit. I was fighting limbs to keep my eyes from being punched out and was making a new loop and trying to overtake her at the same time. I had yelled and a couple of the other boys were after the steers and bull. Well, I roped her again, threw her, jumped down and cut her throat with my pocket knife before she had a chance to get up."

She was "packing plenty of tallow" even if she was growing white with age. The Evans men and the Means men had their families at the round-up, and this day everybody celebrated with a barbecue of Old Rud's best ribs. She was the most noted cow of the Pecos, a relic of the old mustang breed. Joe Evans still has her head and horns.

I have talked about fighting cows and fighting bulls; I shall talk about fighting outlaw steers. Yet the reputation of the longhorns for being dangerous to any man on foot was based largely on a misunderstanding of admirable curiosity. The cowmen whom Philip Ashton Rollins records as forbidding their employees to appear afoot within a quarter of a mile of range cattle because of the danger to man were really concerned over not having their cattle disturbed.

Cattle are curious in direct ratio to their alertness. The longhorns, being all animation and aliveness, had an "intellectual curiosity" that never stirs in heavy, sluggish cattle resembling hogs in their obtuseness. They were curious

in the same way that deer and antelopes are curious, and, like deer and antelopes, they were sometimes betrayed by curiosity. James Capen Adams, the great bear hunter of early-day California, who was also something of a naturalist, tells how one evening about sundown he saw a huge grizzly bear rolling and tumbling in the grass and sticking up his legs, arousing the curiosity and then the fury of cattle around him until a heifer made a lunge at him, whereupon the bear leaped to his feet, killed her and went to drinking her blood and gorging on her flesh. Vaqueros in Mexico have told me of seeing colts and fillies among bands of wild horses lured to their death by curiosity over a panther tail that the panther was cunningly waving above long grass in which he lay crouched, ready to spring when the animal should approach within striking distance.

Modern range cattle not used to seeing human beings except on horseback will, upon sighting a man walking out in the pasture, where they have never seen a pedestrian before, either tear out or move forward to investigate. If, when they get close enough for a good look, the pedestrian will make a sudden move and add a little yell, they will run like a wild turkey. Many of the old-time longhorns had never been in a pen, knew nothing of man-provided water, around which men work on foot, had never glimpsed a human being walking over the range. Observant of and distrustful of everything strange, if a herd of them out on the prairie so much as saw a man dismount and stand beside his horse, they were apt to become excited. As Charlie Russell put it, they seemed to think the animal made by a man on top of a horse had "broke in two;" they were likely to try to break in two also.

A human being showing up afoot on the ground where they grazed was, especially at a distance, far more curious than a wolf or a panther. Here was the unknown to be investigated. If, when the longhorns came in a trot to investigate, the footman ran, then he was to be chased. Maybe he was a new kind of two-legged coyote. I will not say that by standing his ground the footman could in every single instance make the cattle retreat, but the exceptions were minor. The investigators were motivated by curiosity, not viciousness.

Frank Reaugh, the Texas artist, who in the 70's and 80's went afoot among longhorns on their own range, never felt himself in danger. He would go out on the prairie with his sketching materials and a big four-foot umbrella to shade himself from the sun. "No sooner," he says, "would I settle down to my easel for work than all the wild steers in sight would come to investigate. Cows with calves would seek safety somewhere else, and the few old bulls were too dignified to show much interest."

One day, Mr. Reaugh records, he spread his umbrella, put up his easel, and sat down to await the approach of some big steers grazing a half mile or

more to the north. A delightful breeze from the south carried his scent to them. Presently a dozen or so of the longhorns came on the run. At a distance of two hundred feet they suddenly stopped. "But soon, with curiosity unsatisfied, with eyes and ears intent to catch the slightest move or sound, with working nose thrust forward to test the strange odor on the air, cautiously, slowly, a few steps and then a pause, and then a few steps more, they came closer and closer as I worked. All the little group were fine big cattle. The leader especially was fine in form and carriage and beautiful in color. I was working with my utmost speed to get him on canvas when a gust of wind pulled my umbrella loose to go up a dozen feet in the air and then light on its edge and go rolling straight toward those cattle. They stampeded at once, all but the leader. He was made of sterner stuff.

"He braced himself and lowered his head to meet the thing. Doubtless he hoped to run a bluff as he had often done before. He was prepared, and he was a powerful steer with keen, black-tipped, forward-pointing horns. Few things would have rushed in on him, but the umbrella never hesitated. It came right on with a crazy, wabbling, bouncing gait that was disconcerting. The steer had never seen anything like it before; he had no way of estimating its power or possibilities.

"He was a powerful and brave steer, prepared to fight, but at the last minute he lost his nerve. With a bawl of terror that was also a shriek, he whirled and rushed away after the rest of the herd. They all disappeared over the horizon in a little cloud of dust; and they never came back."

A SOUTHERNER'S VIEW OF THE FARM AND TARIFF PROBLEM

THE DOMESTIC ALLOTMENT plan which would allot to each farmer his fair share in the American market upon which portion he would receive parity price, would solve the country's agricultural problem, according to J. E. McDonald, Democratic state official who recently addressed the Republican state convention at Beaumont, Texas.

Regulation and appropriation of recent administrations have not stabilized agriculture, McDonald, who is Texas commissioner of agriculture, said. Farmers in 1939 were getting 8 cents a pound for their cotton and in 1940 around 60 cents a bushel for wheat and 6 cents a pound for hogs—about half of parity prices necessary to give the farmer his fair share of the national income.

This failure of past endeavors implies the need of different methods of getting agriculture stabilization, he said. Farm-

ers want a two-price system for their products, the same as the manufacturers enjoy through the tariffs.

"The mechanics of the domestic allotment plan provide for the establishment of production bases for agricultural crops produced on each farm, based on an approved diversification and crop rotation farming system. The establishment of production bases would not be for the purpose of restricting production but for establishing the basis or method by which each farmer would be allotted his fair share in the American market, not in acres, but in units such as bales, bushels, or pounds.

"The production bases established and recorded in the Department of Agriculture would be used in determining the farm owners' percentage of established production bases entitled to government subsidies, adjustment payments, or benefits. . . .

"The domestic allotment plan would provide a limit of money benefits that any one farm family could receive for compliance with the national farm program, provided, however, that the landowner would receive government benefits, adjustment payments, or subsidies only on his rental portion of the tenant's crop.

"Congress cannot continue indefinitely to appropriate huge sums of money out of the treasury for subsidizing agriculture. The domestic allotment plan would provide that the farm program be not only self-financing but that each commodity would finance its own program—cotton would finance the cotton program, wheat finance the wheat program, and so forth—by imposing an excise tax on the finished product at first sale from processor. The tax on the finished product, which is often several times the price of the raw product, would be a nominal amount yet would raise sufficient funds without being a handicap or a severe burden on anyone.

"The domestic allotment plan, by allotting units and not acres, would create an incentive and make it practicable for farmers to enrich their soils in order that their allotted units may be grown on the minimum acreage, thereby reducing production costs and increasing the margin of profit and releasing the greatest acreage for soil conservation and livestock grazing.

"The domestic allotment plan would provide that a percentage of a commodity held under government loan be applied annually to the farmer's quota, thereby providing a practical means of disposing of government loan commodities—now considered a liability and overshadowing the farmer's future—into an asset and insuring that the government would receive full payment on existing commodity loans, and government commodity loans in the future would be unnecessary. . . .

"This plan would give to agriculture a two-price system such as the tariffs give to manufacture—a system which has enabled the manufacturer to pay

his employees an American wage whereby they could live by American standards and at the same time has left the manufacturer free to produce, at his judgment, goods to be sold in foreign markets at world market prices. Under this two-price system the American manufacturer has prospered and has successfully met competition in world markets.

"The domestic allotment plan would not run counter to the Johnson Anti-Dumping Act, as exports would not be subsidized but sold in world markets at world market prices and could not be offensive to foreign producers as would subsidies paid on exports. The subsidy would be paid only on that portion domestically consumed and only to the extent necessary to achieve parity prices for agricultural products consumed in the home market.

"I am one who believes that the American farmer is entitled to the American market, and, if he is given the American market with parity prices for his products domestically consumed, that, with his resources and ingenuity coupled with our superior marketing system for agricultural crops, the American farmer will also be prosperous and successful in placing his products in the world markets at world prices. . . ."

BEEF CATTLE BREEDING & RANCHING METHODS

By WALLIS HUIDEKOPER

(This is the fifth of a series of articles published through the courtesy of Wallis Huidekoper and the "Montana Stock Grower." This chapter is, "Calves" and "Winter Feeding Cows.")

Calves

CALVES dropped in April and May are at their very best in September and October, for they are over their baby calthood, the flies have quit bothering them, and they are grazing and chewing their cud, as well as nursing from their mothers. With this dual nourishment, they make rapid growth, broaden out, and put on bloom, especially if we have been favored with early fall rains so that our grasses have softened and become somewhat greener. So keep from weaning as long as possible, and at least up to the middle of October. I have generally planned to wean around the end of that month so as to make sales delivery the first of November.

One thing must be remembered, however. The mother cows need at least six weeks after weaning in order to pick up before real winter hits them; but they will quickly respond after their big calves are taken away. In the old days on the range, calves often stayed with their mothers all winter, so nature had to take a hand in shutting off the milk flow, and gradual weaning took place. However, often in the spring after a new calf was born, a big year-

ling might be seen trying to get its share of the mother's milk. If these robbers were found during branding time, a sharp knife was soon used to slit their tongues so they could not suck—to me a most inhumane practice but that accomplished the purpose.

Wean around the end of October or the first of November by cutting the calves from their mothers and isolating them in corrals or pens where the cows cannot reach them or, still better, see them. If there is no second partition fence and the cows can smell their calves and touch noses, the weaning process will be drawn out; otherwise three days will suffice to quiet the calves and make them cease bawling. There is no use to feed hay the first day but some good hay scattered on the ground the second day will be eaten, for calves respond quickly to a hay ration. As soon as weaning is completed, I would suggest a 5cc vaccination against blackleg. True, you probably have vaccinated at branding time, but another shot at this late fall period is advisable. Most serum companies advertise a single vaccination for full immunity, but I cannot agree with them. Experience has proved the contrary. It may be that a careful vaccinating when your calf is half grown and in a quiet state will immunize, but to use the needle when you brand, earmark, castrate, and dehorn is not the proper time to do the work, and I doubt that successful general results follow. A second shot is advisable.

Give calves plenty of salt and easy access to open water. The more they drink, the better. With good hay, salt, and water and shelter from the wind and weather, you will find that within a week they will be feeding and lying around in a contented manner. It is best not to use alfalfa hay as a starter; for it makes too sudden a change from dried grass and may cause scours. Keep them at first on clean wild hay and give them all they can eat. Calves may not understand going to feed racks at first but will take to hay on the ground. They will soon follow to wherever it is put.

The best age to wean depends a good deal on the growth and individuality of the calf; but all early spring calves can be taken from their mothers by October 15. Later ones—calves coming in late June or July—had better stay with the cows somewhat longer; for you do not want to stunt their growth.

Weaned calves at no period can be put back in the general cow herd; for even months afterward they will pick up their mothers and start nursing again. If the weaners are to be shipped by rail any great distance, and especially if they are to pass through and feed in any large terminal yards, they should be vaccinated with anti-shipping-fever serum. This is generally done at the request of the buyer. Also see that cars are clean and well sanded and do not load too heavy. Wean well

ahead of sales delivery time—at least a week—and have your calves quiet, contented, and feeding well. Be sure to give them plenty of good wild hay to prevent shrinkage and to hold weight, especially if they are sold by the pound.

Winter Feeding Cows

IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE range cattle business it was considered a good policy by many beef outfits to run a small cow herd of about 10 per cent of their holdings, as these cows would help hold and locate any new steers on the range. This action was undoubtedly beneficial, as these animals would not leave the shelter of their streams and creeks and so prevented winter drifts. However, it was a hard life for these small, half-bred southern cows, and I can still see them today looking wild-eyed from snow-covered underbrush, ready to run, and getting poorer daily, so that by spring they were not in fit condition to calve, would fall in bog holes and washouts, and at best would render not over a 50 per cent calf crop. It was an unmerciful way to handle cows.

Today the situation is greatly changed, for we winter our cows in pastures or near-by grazing grounds where they can be daily seen and easily gathered if necessary. Winter loss is practically eliminated. The wintering of breeding cows constitutes one of our major problems if we wish to operate at a minimum outlay of feed and labor and still have our herd in good condition.

As already stated, cows with calves weaned will put on flesh so, during the early part of winter, if they have access to good grazing, they should need little care unless hit by a severe storm. After the new year, however, it is advisable to sort and arrange for systematic wintering, as cows will then start to shrink owing to the fact that they are carrying unborn calves. All cows not thriving and especially those in poor flesh as well as very young and old ones should be cut from the herd and put on steady feed. The remainder can undoubtedly be ruffed along for another month or until February 1, at which time I am in favor of hay-feeding, in a supplementary way, all calving cows. Do not start feeding too early, or you will spoil your cattle and they will not rustle; but, on the other hand, remember hay is for feeding purposes and not for a ranch ornament to be carried over.

The safe wintering of cows in Montana is not an expensive operation, especially if the cows have access to plenty of grazing and browsing; for then it is a case of feeding during storms and for the two months before calving. As winter progresses, it is best to gather cows that are shrinking and weakening and add them to your collected bunch already on feed. By so doing, you have only a strong herd on the rustle.

I have always figured that if we could count on one ton of good hay per cow

we could successfully winter; provided we had grazing, that being at the rate of twenty pounds of hay per day for 100 days. However, it is good to have on hand a little extra hay or a straw stack; remember we sometimes have severe snow storms in the late spring. I like oat straw for early winter feeding, so much so that I feature it by having a man with a long-handled fork do a rough job of stacking as it comes from the blower. We salt the chaff. Straw is also nice to feed with concentrates.

From February 1 until green grass of spring, it is best to give your cows extra good care and plenty of feed in order to keep them strong and increase their milk flow for calving. At this time they need shelter from winds, easy access to open water, salt before them, and plenty of feed. Native Montana cows are rugged enough not to be hurt by severe cold weather, provided their paunches are full; but they shrink quickly if hungry, so feed twice a day in very cold weather so they can bed down on a full stomach.

Cattle will hold up on hay; but a good concentrate and heat-giving carbohydrate will help a lot and save hay. These concentrates consist of straight cotton or linseed cake, soybean pellets, or any of the good products put out by our Montana mills in machine-pressed form and made up of screenings, dried sugar beet pulp, molasses, cottonseed, bone meal, and other beneficial ingredients. Any of these makes a relatively cheap feed at the rate of one to one and a half pounds per cow a day and results are satisfactory; but do not feed these strong concentrates over a period of seventy-five days. Also be careful not to feed a too strong combination of two laxatives, such as very green alfalfa hay with molasses and sugar beet pellets.

In large herds, cows should be separated into bunches of 200 and not over 250 head for feeding purposes, as this makes an ideal unit to scatter hay to and eliminates the possibility of the stronger cows getting the bulk of the feed. In smaller herds, feed racks may be advisable; but I am an advocate of feeding hay scattered on the ground, as it keeps the cows moving around in a natural state and getting their feed under practically grazing conditions with their heads down. If possible, feed in sheltered parks near open water where cattle may bed down in willow brush or cottonwood groves. As heretofore stated, do not pamper your cows but keep them in a healthy, rugged, well-fed condition, so that by green grass time, they are strong and ready to be successfully calved out.

So much for cow questions. Now for the bulls.

Bulls need a lot of attention during winter months; for, although heavy hided and apparently tough, they do not seem to stand up unless well cared for. However, they can be wintered most economically. After being segregated from the cows in the fall, they should be put on good grazing in order to regain some of their flesh before winter sets in.

After that it is a matter of feeding. Acclimated bulls and bulls over three years old can be well wintered on hay alone, either fed on the ground or put in heavy log racks. For shelter they need thick brush or sheds and should have free access to salt and water. Under this treatment they will winter and put on flesh and will be in good shape by spring. You do not want them fat. Newly purchased and younger bulls should be fed by themselves and given better care by a supplementary feeding of some good concentrate or oats fed in troughs; but do not overfeed or give them fat-producing grains such as corn, wheat, or barley. They should also be in the open so as to get plenty of exercise and keep on their feet, and of course they need protection from storms. I like to winter bulls well, so as to have them in good flesh by spring, with nice, shiny coats but not carrying fat; and I want them lively and strong on their feet and not too gentle. In other words, I want rugged, active animals that will do a lot of work and stand up under it. Bulls that are tied up in barns, stall fed, and petted and pampered will not fill these requirements.

THE FIRST SHOES

You'd never shod a hoss before,
But reckoned that it was no chore.
You tied him in the corral gate
And got a set of cowboy plates.
Of course you didn't need a fire;
You shaped 'em on a wagon tire.

You rasped and worked with all yore
might;
Them feet jest wouldn't level right.
You aimed to shoe him all around,
And started in to nail and pound.
In all directions them nails went;
You threw away the ones you bent.

Before you got the hind feet shod,
Yore soul had almost gone to God.
One nail went wrong, the hoss got
"quicked;"
When you woke up you knowed he'd
kicked.
He shore was scairt and on the fight,
And so you tied one foot up tight.

You sweat and swore, and when you
quit,
The shoes was on but didn't fit.
Next day you met a foxy gent
And got into an argument.
Right on the start he had you beat;
He looked down at yore hoss' feet.

He kindly asked you if you knowed
Who was it shod the hoss you rode.
And then he looked off toward the hill
And grinned, jest like some fellers will.
Though years have gone, you can't furgit
Them first hoss shoes and how they fit.

BRUCE KISKADDON.

LAW WEST OF THE PECOS— STORY OF JUDGE ROY BEAN

By EVERETT LLOYD

III

CHRONOLOGICALLY AND FOR THE purposes of this narrative, Roy Bean comes on the scene as a fortune hunter in the California gold fields in 1849. It is in this role that he encounters his first tragic experience, and even this is blended with romance and a dash of chivalry and humor. From this occurrence we get the first genuine Roy Bean story, which, like all Roy Bean stories, has many variations; but this one Bean frequently told on himself when in his mellow moods, and it has all the earmarks of authenticity and originality.

Bean was twenty-four, and ever alert for love and adventure; and both usually went into a huddle to meet him half way. It was the same old story: a young and beautiful senorita had been kidnapped by a Mexican army officer and forced into marriage. Bean challenged the Mexican to a duel. He killed the army officer, and the friends of the slain Mexican proceeded to administer "miner's justice" by hanging Bean to a near-by tree, leaving his feet dangling a few inches above the ground.

Bean thought his time had arrived, but the amorous-eyed senorita, who had concealed herself behind a tree, bided her time until the departure of the dead officer's friends, then cut the rope from which Bean was suspended in midair.

His only comment was:

"That was a hell of a way to treat a fighting man. Thank you, sister."

Administering a rather lusty kiss in return for having saved his life, Bean made a hasty departure from California, and we next hear of him at Santa Fe, New Mexico, as a pony express rider for the Butterfield Dispatch Company. From Santa Fe, Bean went to San Antonio and accepted a job as a teamster of a mule freight train, operated by Adams, Wicks, and Hickman—a line that ran from San Antonio to Chihuahua, Mexico, via El Paso. On these trips the wagon trains were frequently raided by Indians, but in personal encounters Bean and his teammates were victorious.

On the last trip to Chihuahua, Major Hickman was in the party, and while in Chihuahua on the last night of their stay there Roy Bean attended a dance. A general fight followed, in which Bean killed a Mexican. A posse surrounded him, and for a time his life was in imminent danger. Major Hickman heard of the killing, and by a clever ruse succeeded in rescuing Bean and hiding him in the bottom of a wagon. Covering him with a buffalo hide, they smuggled him across the border and returned to San Antonio.

Bean's only explanation of his hasty

departure from the southern republic was that, "My horse would not drink water in Mexico." And, while he remained in the service of the company operating the mule train for some time, he resigned as a teamster.

We next behold Bean in the capacity of a wood merchant, and, as usual, his resourcefulness stood him in good stead in his new role. According to tradition, Major Hickman secured a government contract to provide wood for the army post at San Antonio, and Bean was placed in charge of the work. After a thorough survey just beyond the city limits of San Antonio, Bean located a whole forest of just the kind of timber he was looking for. The fact that the land on which the timber grew belonged to another concerned him little; the soldiers must be fed and kept warm, and he was charged with assisting his employers in fulfilling a government contract. What were vested rights and land ownership in the face of such a peril?

With a crew of workmen, Bean established his camp at the end of South Presa Street, San Antonio, and, in addition to supplying the firm of Adams, Wicks, and Hickman with all the wood it required, he hoisted a sign above his shack announcing to the world that Roy Bean was in the wood business both as a wholesaler and retailer, even becoming so liberal as to let his customers select their own timber, provided they did the work of cutting and hauling. It was a cash and carry affair with Roy, and he did a thriving business until the owner of the land—Mr. Worthington—heard about it and joined with adjacent landowners whose timber had been depleted in a general remonstrance and threats of legal action. Bean was forced to seek other and less profitable pursuits.

Suddenly it dawned on him that what San Antonio needed most was an up-to-date dairy. Rounding up a few "strays" and mavericks in an improvised corral, Bean ventured forth as a dairyman. On the days when the supply of milk ran short, Roy supplemented his output by blending it with water from the San Antonio River.

Everything ran smoothly for a while, but on a certain morning a customer, having discovered a minnow in the container left at his door, demanded an explanation as well as a refund of money.

Always equal to any occasion which required quick thinking and resourcefulness, Bean in his unexpurgated pioneer dialect, apologetically said:

"Well, I'll be damned; one of my cows must have swallowed that minnow when she drank at the river."

The completion of the G. H. & S. A.

railroad westward as far as San Antonio in the early nineties was an occasion for general rejoicing. A little farther to the west and the line would soon be joined by the fast approaching Southern Pacific, then building from California.

Among the celebrants at the station the day of the arrival of the first G. H. & S. A. train was Roy Bean, whose fondness for liquor had put him in the proper mood for the occasion. Standing on a rickety wagon he surveyed the crowd that had congregated. He saw the crews of Irish laborers who had built the road from New Orleans, and down at Vinegaroon or Eagle's Nest where he was soon to establish himself as the owner of a tent saloon, he knew there were thousands of Chinese coolies from California. The Irish and the Chinese were to meet at a place known as Langtry. Surely it would become a city. What a wonderful opportunity! A saloon would be a gold mine; and, by standing in with the construction and section bosses, tabs and I. O. U.'s could be deducted from pay checks.

For the time being Roy Bean was inspired. Another drink and he was on his way to Vinegaroon—a railroad camp near the junction of the Rio Grande and Pecos rivers and only a few miles from the more or less mythical metropolis of Langtry.

While living in a San Antonio suburb then known as "Beanville," Roy Bean married a Mexican by the name of Virginia Chavez, unquestionably a woman of considerable character and intelligence. Four children were born to the Beans—two daughters and two sons—and they later adopted a son—John Bean. Despite the separation of Roy Bean and his wife and her subsequent divorce from him in San Antonio, the Bean children seem to have been rather fond of their father, and he in turn was greatly attached to them. In fact, the two daughters and the three sons were practically reared by Bean at Langtry, and the girls were given some educational advantages at a well-known Texas college. The boys grew up in an unfavorable atmosphere and environment. They were good fellows at heart.

Sam Bean was stabbed to death by a Mexican in a saloon at Del Rio and is buried by the side of his father in the Del Rio cemetery. Roy Bean, Jr., died several years later but from natural causes. After John Bean grew to manhood, he had little to do with either his foster father or other members of the family. The two daughters married bridge foremen of the Southern Pacific and are now living in New Orleans. Mrs. Bean married the second time and was the mother of two or three daughters, now highly respected members of the Mexican colony at San Antonio; but one matrimonial venture was enough for old Roy. She died in San Antonio on November 26, 1922, at the age of seventy-seven.

SOMEWHAT in kangaroo fashion, old Roy would hear the testimony in such

misdeemeanor cases as were usually on the Monday morning docket, and then in a perfunctory manner say to the defendant:

"It is the judgment of this court that you are hereby tried and convicted of illegally and unlawfully committing certain grave offenses and against the peace and dignity of the State of Texas, particularly in my bailiwick, to-wit: drunk and disorderly, and, being Law West of the Pecos, I fine you two dollars; then get the hell out of here and never show yourself in this court again. Next case on the docket."

On Mondays Judge Bean did a wholesale business in the matter of clearing his docket and pocketing the fees. He was doing a flourishing business in his dual role of purveyor of squirrel whiskey and a sardonic brand of haphazard and befuddled legal jurisprudence.

Due to the encroaching railroad lines soon to converge, and with them the hordes of Irish micks and Chinese coolies, all living in adjoining camps, things were calculated to get lively and business pick up. Indeed, business did pick up to such an extent that the governor of Texas, at the request of local citizens, dispatched Company E of the Texas Rangers to the scene. With the aid of the rangers and railroad contractors, law and order were established.

Though they were more of a mockery and travesty than constituted authority, what with intimidation and the levying of fines which were guaranteed by the employing railroad contractors, backed up by the presence of the rangers, a crude kind of law had a still-born birth; and, by a kind of legal fiction, Roy Bean began to take on some of the aspects of his title. Whether he dubbed himself "Law West of the Pecos" or heard the phrase and appropriated it, nobody knows. All we know is that he added it to his legal title of justice of the peace and made it stick until the end of the chapter.

Having no jail at Langtry, it was the custom of the rangers and such other emissaries of the law as were thereabouts to arrest local offenders and chain them by their ankles to convenient trees,

hitching posts, or crossties. After drunken sleep had restored their brain cells to lucid functioning, the astute judge, with two six-shooters dangling from his sides and with his only law book in hand, would turn to each manacled prisoner and in an affected manner dilate upon the seriousness of the crime and impending punishment. On these missions the judge would have a ranger accompany him, and, by previous arrangement with the contractors, the fines would be deducted from the workmen's pay—only on condition, however, that they return to work.

A drunken sign painter breezed into the town of Langtry one day, and, in consideration of all the liquor he could drink, ample food, and a place to sleep during the time required to do the work, painted the rather grotesque signs over the portals of Roy Bean's saloon which have excited the curiosity of thousands of tourists and railway passengers as they passed through the little town of Langtry.

One and inseparable, the dual title, "Judge Roy Bean—Law West of the Pecos," is a legal classic and is as much a part of Roy Bean's fame as his name itself. So exclusively has it attached itself to and identified itself with his unique career that it has become synonymous with his very name. It is true that he was a duly and legally elected justice of the peace and not a self-constituted official, as many think and as many others have said and written; but the title nearest his heart—the one that made him bulge large in his own opinion, and, as he thought, in the opinion of others—was "Judge Roy Bean—Law West of the Pecos!" And, whether it was at his request or not, the little red granite headstone in the cemetery at Del Rio where Bean lies buried bears this inscription:

"JUDGE ROY BEAN

"Justice of the Peace

"LAW WEST OF THE PECOS"

The usual dates of birth and death are omitted.

AS "Law West of the Pecos," Roy Bean beguiled himself into believing that he was charged then with the maintenance of law and order whenever and wherever threatened or violated. Doubtless he experienced an exaltation in his judicial role and in the claptrap glory that came to him; and, while he was a wit, somewhat, in fact, largely given to buffoonery, he knew nothing about law, evidence, or procedure and did not pretend to know. All the law he knew was a crude system of what he thought was equity. He let it go at that. He respected the vested rights of others only when it was most expedient. We know that Bean was somewhat of a philosopher and looked upon life as a pageant. With his natural gift of showmanship, he easily became a part of the Big Parade.

From his decisions there was no appeal. He was judge, jury, and execu-



tioner. All he required were the facts and evidence, and his own theory of contingency and expediency enabled him to apply a bizarre and naive form of equity that served the ends of justice as he interpreted them; and, though his somewhat mythical jurisdiction embraced all the territory west of the Pecos River, all the way to El Paso and as far north and south as he ventured to include, he let it be known that his decisions were final—a sort of cat-o'-nine-tails legally applied.

A humorous defense of his ubiquitous and far-flung jurisdiction as justice of the peace was quickly forthcoming on one occasion when Judge T. A. Falvy, district judge at El Paso in the early days, heard that Bean was granting divorces. Judge Falvy took the matter up with him and administered a gentle reprimand. Bean defended his action on the ground that, as the law gave him the express authority to marry people, it carried with it the power to divorce them.

As justice of the peace, Roy Bean arrogated and usurped all the functions of the county and district judge as well as those of the Spanish or Mexican alcalde. But at least in one respect Roy Bean improved on the alcalde system. The position of alcalde was a post of honor, without pay or remuneration. The alcalde could decide all matters of minor importance punishable by fine and imprisonment, and, as Roy's court was without a jail or place of confinement, all cases were deemed finable cases. Under certain extenuating circumstances Judge Bean would permit the defendant to make the amende honorable; and, just as he was the original short-change artist when waiting on customers at his bar, so was he a stickler for making all cases finable ones and pocketing the fees.

Yet Roy Bean was charitable and generous to a fault. Tramps and other derelicts were the particular objects of his benefaction; and, even in his most austere moods, when he felt the necessity of levying a fine for some minor infraction of the law, he invariably rendered his decision with his tongue in his cheek. A hard-luck story would cause Bean to remit the fine and order the drinks.

"Hear ye! Hear ye! This honorable court is now in session, and, if anybody wants a snort before we start, step up to the bar and name your poison."

Thus would old Roy solemnly and fervently intone as he removed his bespattered apron and drew on his equally soiled alpaca coat—the garb that constituted his only judicial ermine.

"Stand up, Morales, and receive your sentence. Have you anything to say why the judgment of this court should not be pronounced against you?" Not being able to speak English, the defendant remained silent, and Bean continued.

"Carlos Morales, you have been tried by twelve good men and true, not of your peers but as high above you as heaven is of hell, and they have said you are guilty. Time will pass and seasons

come and go—spring, with its green grass and myriad flowers on every hill and dale; then hot summer, with its shimmering waves on the horizon; then fall, with her yellow harvest moon and the hills growing brown and golden under the receding sun; and then winter, with its howling winds and all the land mantled with snow. But you will not be there, Carlos Morales, not by a damn sight, for it is the order of this court that you be taken to the nearest tree and hanged by the neck until you are dead, dead, dead, you saddle-colored son-of-a-gun."

This story has many variations, the variations and eloquence depending on the number of drinks the narrator has imbibed; yet it would be a good story regardless of who tells it or its authorship.

Many of the Roy Bean stories have gone around the world, notably the Chinaman story and the case of Bean being summoned to hold an inquest over the body of a man who had on his person a six-shooter and an undetermined amount of money, let us say forty dollars.

It was the first of the month, and the man had evidently just been paid. Delving into the pockets of the corpse, old Roy was not long in finding the gun and the money, whereupon he made one of his most famous rulings: he assessed a fine equivalent to the full amount of money and pocketed both money and gun, saying:

"I will have to fine this corpse forty dollars for carrying concealed weapons, and that's my rulin'."

Called to explain to the attorney general of Texas why he had not remitted the state's part of fees collected, Bean replied that his "court had to be self-sustaining," and the learned gentlemen at Austin could attend to their business and he would attend to his.

Judge Thomas S. Maxey, United States district judge at El Paso, which included Roy Bean's bailiwick at Langtry and Vinegaroon where he first resided and operated a tent saloon and all that

went with it, visited Langtry on one occasion with the Honorable Wm. H. Burgess, also of the Border City, then as now the foremost and most scholarly member of the local bar.

Mr. Burgess introduced Judge Maxey to Bean, who acknowledged the introduction in this manner:

"Well, judge, I am glad to meet you. You know a good many years ago I rendered a decision in my court that there was not any law in Texas against killing a Chinaman and that there was nothing in the statutes on the subject and everybody made a lot of fun of it and told it everywhere; but I heard afterward that you had decided the same thing in El Paso."

Judge Maxey had been trying a great many cases arising under the Chinese Exclusion Act, and they frequently ended in summary deportation of the Chinese from the United States. Judge Maxey was not sure that he wanted to be in the attitude of sustaining Bean's decision.

John M. Dean, for many years district attorney in the section which embraced El Paso, said that on a certain occasion Bean complained to him that he had gone into partnership with a man in raising some goats and as he was not getting his share of the money arising from the joint enterprise asked the district attorney what could be done about it. With a keen sense of humor adequate to any situation, Dean advised Bean to issue a writ of sequestration out of his own court, attach the goats, and, when the constable took them into his own possession, direct him to turn them into Bean's corral, then dismiss the suit. Bean actually did this and it worked out all right.

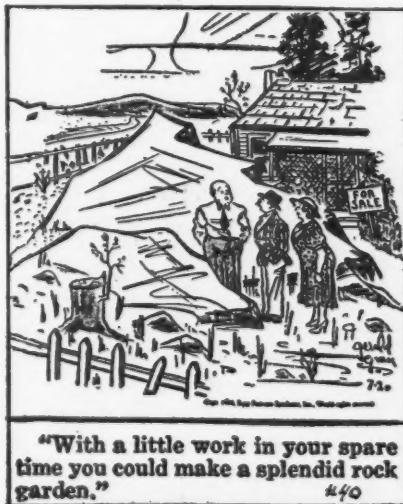
(TO BE CONTINUED. COPYRIGHTED.)

ASSOCIATION NOTES

ON SEPTEMBER 28, FOR THE eighth consecutive year, the Yavapai Cattle Growers' Association staged its "give-a-calf" sale for the American National Live Stock Association; for the eighth consecutive year it will present to the American National a check for \$1,000. The calves were gathered at the Hayes Cattle Ranch, in People's Valley. Several hundred Yavapai cattlemen and cowmen from many parts of the state were present. Sixty-five calves were auctioned at an estimated 10½ cents per pound. A bull, donated by Will Ritter, of Kirkland, brought \$65. Other articles sold were a ton of salt, donated by K. H. Hammon, of Flagstaff, and two sacks of pink beans, donated by Dan Sullivan. Mrs. Keith, in her Arizona Cattle Growers' Association "News Letter," "challenges the world to equal this record!"

WYOMING BOARD MEETS

The Wyoming Stock Growers' Association executive committee met at Cheyenne on October 17. Consensus was that sales tax be retained at present levels; that lower valuation on grazing lands



"With a little work in your spare time you could make a splendid rock garden." #40

SOYBEAN CROPS PRODUCTS



POTENTIAL SUPPLIES

As of October 1 the U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that the Soybean Crop for the 1940-41 season will be 81,541,000 bushels. The government estimate of old-crop beans remaining on the farms amounts to 2,622,270 bushels, which gives a total available of 84,163,270 bushels. If 70% of this available supply of beans is crushed, the production of Soybean Oil Meal, Flakes, and Pellets will be about 1,472,857 tons.

PROTEIN: Toasted Soybean Oil Meal, Flakes, and Pellets contain 44% Protein and are tagged accordingly—an economical source of protein that figures a very low cost per pound in many localities taking favorable freight rates from producing territories. We strongly advocate and recommend the use of 44% Toasted Soybean Oil Meal Products. However, we are in position to quote prices and make shipment of 41% Old Process Soybean Oil Meal.

Toasted Soybean Oil Meal Pellets are obtainable in three sizes, in either the Straight 44% or the Mineralized 42% protein: The No. 1 large Pellet for Cattle; the No. 2 medium Pellet for Calves or Sheep; and the No. 3 small Pellet for trough feeding. Toasted Soybean Oil Meal and Flakes for mixing or trough feeding can be shipped in straight or mixed cars with Pellets.

TOTAL SUPPLIES CONCENTRATED

From the above figures you will note that the total Potential Supplies of both Cotton and Soybean Products are available for the lowest market prices and dependable service.

WIRE, PHONE or WRITE

C. R. GARNER & SONS

PHONE: LONG DISTANCE No. 1

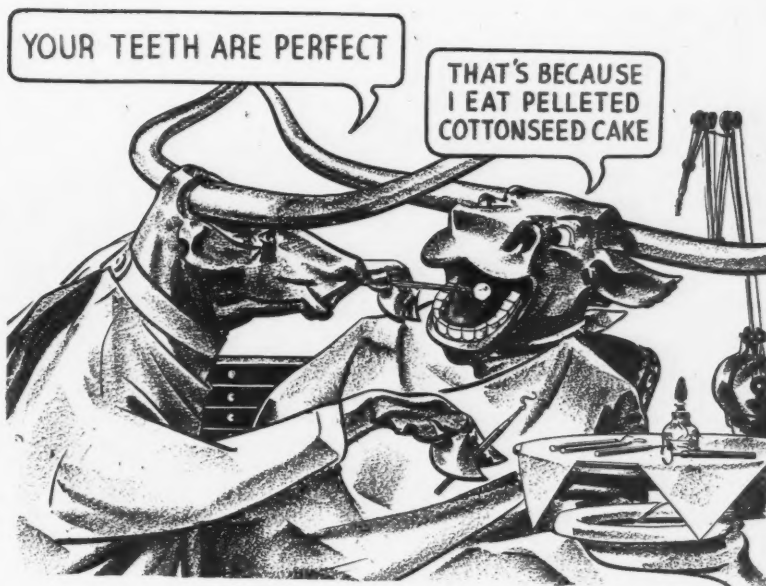
P. O. BOX 5

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

COTTONSEED PRODUCTS

POTENTIAL SUPPLIES

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates the Cotton Crop for the 1940-41 season to be 12,741,000 bales. If the average amount of seed is crushed, the production of Cake and Meal will amount to 2,021,040 tons. The amount of Cake and Meal carried over from last season, including Cake and Meal in the seed carried over, was 99,361 tons, which gives a total available of 2,120,401 tons Cottonseed Cake and Meal.



PROTEIN: Cottonseed Cake and Meal contain 43% protein and have been successfully used for the past fifty years as a source of high protein suitable for Range and Trough feeding of all kinds of livestock. Cost per pound of protein depends upon the freight rate applying from Oil Mills at point of origin to your shipping point.

43% Protein, Prime Quality, New Crop Cottonseed Cake can be secured in either the No. 1 large Cattle Pellet or the No. 2 medium Calf or Sheep Pellet. We can also furnish the same quality of Cracked, Screened Cottonseed Cake, Nut, Sheep, Pea size, Meal or Screenings in straight or mixed cars.

ENTITLED FEEDS

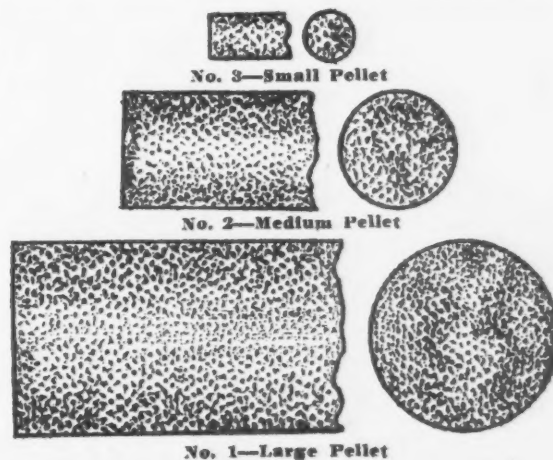
h Cotton and Soybean products will be about 3,593,258 tons
D DEPENDENT SERVICE

ITE

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November, 1940



AMARILLO, TEXAS

and lower rentals for state lands should be "vigorously sought;" and that it might be feasible to ask for an appropriation for investigation of productive value of range lands. A summary of market inspection given at the meeting showed that from June, 1930, to June, 1940, Wyoming cattle inspected by association inspectors at open markets numbered 2,299,699 and that estrays recovered numbered 200,709, each animal worth an estimated \$29.15.

COCHISE-GRAHAM BOARD MEETS

At a board of directors' meeting of the Cochise-Graham Cattle Growers' Association, held in Willcox, Arizona, recently, it was resolved that the board "approve action of the state land board in working out appraisal of state grazing lands under which rentals will be fixed on a more stable and equitable basis."

CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETS

The convention committee of the American National Live Stock Association met in Fort Worth, Texas, on October 10. J. M. Reynolds, chairman of the committee, presided. He turned the meeting over to Lawrence F. Mollin, assistant to the secretary of the American National, who outlined the usual procedure. A large majority of the committee was present, as were representatives of the Blackstone Hotel and Chamber of Commerce. The committee extended full co-operation to the American National and gave assurance that everything would be done to make the coming national convention an outstanding one. A local committee, composed of J. M. Reynolds, chairman, W. L. Pier, John Burns, and Herbert Joseph, was selected to handle the necessary arrangements. The American National Live Stock Association is grateful to the committee for its co-operation and is looking forward to an outstanding convention at Fort Worth on January 7, 8, and 9.

NEW MEXICO GROUP MEETS

Resolutions adopted by the executive committee of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, meeting October 15 at State College, recommended that the committee to represent the association in public land hearings endorse the principals of the Taylor Grazing Act and the Johnson Bill S3532 and be guided by the policy that federal grazing lands be merged in one agency controlled by a basic law; that Congress cease granting individual agencies authority and funds to acquire land, except in certain instances; that the principal of fee simple ownership remain intact and purchase of federal land by individuals be provided for; that the federal government recognizes a major responsibility toward local government in those states in which she has land and therefore should

share income; that extensive purchase of privately owned land by the government be frowned upon. Other resolutions commended the National Live Stock and Meat Board and the Institute of American Meat Packers in their meat-advertising campaigns; affirmed the position against modification of embargo on meat from countries having foot-and-mouth disease; authorized service of an association representative during state legislature's session. A number of speakers appeared before the board meeting; among them was F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association.

TOUR EXPERIMENTAL AREA

The day before the New Mexico Association executive committee meeting, a tour of the New Mexico experimental range was made by the group. Outstanding was the information given by J. O. Bridges about grass density on a plot fenced to keep out rabbits compared with growth on the outside. No cattle had grazed in or out of the area. We quote Mr. Bridges: "Measurements made on the central quarter acre of this plot indicate a total reconnaissance density of 15 per cent; of this 15 per cent, 11 per cent are palatable grasses and 4 per cent are snakeweed, or broomweed, as some of you call it. On an equal area just to the west and outside the plot the measurements indicate a total density of 11 per cent, of which 3 per cent are palatable grasses and 8 per cent are snakeweed. Thus there is about one-fourth as much grass on the outside as there is on the inside, while there is twice as much snakeweed. Apparently there is a greater difference than the figures indicate. This is due to the heavy grazing of rabbits on the outside area. Clipping tests show that rabbits have eaten two-thirds of the total amount of grass. Consequently, there is three times the forage visible on the inside per unit area as there is on the outside. Since there is four times the density of grass on the inside, there is thus twelve times as much grass present." Bridges brought out the point that the experiment suggested that heavy grazing of such a depleted area tends to hold it in a depleted state; that rabbits did the overgrazing; that grass, given a chance, will eradicate snakeweed; that total protection from grazing will restore the land to a valuable condition.

KENDRICK NAMED PRESIDENT

Manville Kendrick, of Sheridan, Wyoming, was elected president of the Wyoming-Montana Livestock Protective Association at the annual meeting of the organization held recently in Sheridan. Kendrick, of the Kendrick Cattle Company, succeeds Lawrence Fuller, of Sheridan, who has headed the stockmen's group for several years. Owen S. Hoge, of Dayton, was elected vice-president and

R. T. (Bob) Helvey, of Sheridan, was named secretary-treasurer. Hoge had previously served as secretary-treasurer. The directors elected were as follows: Lawrence Fuller; Goelet Gallatin, Big Horn; Owen S. Hoge; Levi S. Howes, Sheridan; Alonzo Shreve, Wolf; Manville Kendrick; R. T. Helvey; A. G. Yonkee, Parkman; John Kerns, Parkman; Charles Scrutchfield, Sheridan. Adopted at a recent meeting of the executive committee of the association was the following resolution: "Resolved that we heartily endorse and approve the resolution S.241 and commend Senator McCarran for his efforts to bring before Congress dependable information concerning the administration and control of federally owned lands as administered by the Forest Service and by the Interior Department under authority of the Taylor Grazing Act and its amendments."

RANGE BRED STEERS TOP MART

Montana cattle fed by E. H. Oehlsen, near State Center, Iowa, established a new top of \$14 on the Chicago market on October 17 when seventy-three Hereford steers averaging 1,272 pounds sold at that price to an eastern order buyer. This equals the highest price paid on the Chicago market since December 1, 1937, which was last reached on May 17, 1939.

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER—

- 4—Northwest Nebraska Registered Hereford Breeders' Ass'n Sale, Valentine, Neb.
- 6-7—South Dakota Stockmen's Round-Up and Feeders' Day, Brookings.
- 7—Nevada State Cattle Ass'n Convention, Elko.
- 8-14—Ogden Livestock Show, Ogden, Utah.
- 9-16—American Royal Livestock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- 15—Oklahoma Live Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Tulsa.
- 16—San Luis Valley Cattlemen's Ass'n Calf Sale and 4-H Club Sale, "Ski Hi" Barns, Monte Vista, Colo.
- 18-21—National Polled Hereford Show, Des Moines, Iowa.
- 30-Dec. 7—International Livestock Exposition, Chicago Ill.

DECEMBER—

- 13-14—California Cattlemen's Ass'n Convention, San Francisco.

JANUARY—

- 7-9—American National Live Stock Ass'n Convention, Fort Worth, Tex.
- 11-18—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.
- 13—Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n Midwinter Meeting, Shirley Savoy Hotel, Denver.
- 21-23—National Wool Growers' Ass'n Convention, Spokane, Wash.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

Published monthly in the interest of the live stock industry by the American National Live Stock Association Publishing Company.

515 COOPER BUILDING, DENVER, COLORADO

Subscription: One Year, \$1; Three Years, \$2.75; Six Years, \$5. Advertising Rates on Request.

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Vol. XXII November 1940 No. 6

TRADE TREATY RHAPSODIES

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS PAST, AS the European war involved more and more nations, advocates of Pan-American solidarity have taken advantage of the situation to ride hard on the issue that great sacrifices must be made from a trade standpoint by this country in order to improve the defense alignment of the entire American continent. To this writer it appears that the two issues involved, defense and trade, are entirely separate and that no trade treaties, however sacred, no sacrifice, however great, can tie North America and South America together in a fashion that will endure much longer than the present emergency lasts.

Defensively there is no question of the need of American solidarity. It is just as much to the benefit of any country in South America as it is to that of the United States that we all should resist any European aggressor; but, when it comes to the question of trade, the unfortunate fact persists that the surpluses which are produced in South America are to a large extent identical with the major crops of North America and that the United States does not need and cannot advantageously use any large share of such surpluses. Consequently, when the smoke of war has broken away, beyond a shadow of a doubt those surpluses will find their way to countries which need them and which consequently can and will pay more for them than this country can afford to do.

First it was suggested that we should buy all South American surpluses in order to insure solidarity. This suggestion could not stand up against the ridicule heaped upon it. Next came the proposal to loan money to South American countries, and \$500,000,000 has been appropriated to the Export-Import Bank for that purpose, and the president of that bank is now on a mission to South

America in connection with his increased powers. It is futile at this time to attempt to forecast the outcome of this effort. Perhaps it will do some good temporarily; but already it has been stated that no attempt will be made to unload surpluses financed through the medium of this loan onto United States markets.

There still are those blind advocates of international trade who insist that our tariffs should be further reduced to encourage the importation of these surplus South American products. No one, however, has ever attempted to show how American agriculture, which is today leaning all too heavily upon governmental subsidies for its very existence, could hope to survive if forced to compete with additional surpluses from abroad, produced under conditions far different from those obtaining in this country.

Advocates of this system of curing the world's ills should take comfort from a treaty recently negotiated between Argentina and Brazil whereby Argentina loans Brazil money to buy Argentine surpluses and Brazil loans Argentina money to buy Brazilian surpluses. This is really the pay-off. Now beyond a doubt it will be possible to prove that you can lift yourself by your own boot straps. Possibly we should import Chinese soldiers to guard the Pacific coast and send American boys over to scrap with Japan. It would make just as much sense.

Certainly, for the duration of the war, trade between North and South America will increase, for the simple reason that trade in other parts of the world is very much reduced. However, it takes no treaties and no governmental loans to bring about such a situation. It is a perfectly natural one, due to the war, and it is just as sure that after the war trade will resume its normal course regardless of all the treaties, all the loans, and all the sacrifices that may now be forced.

PRICE STABILITY

EVER SINCE THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY was developed in the West, a half century or more ago, the bane of the business has been the wide fluctuations in prices, too often unaccompanied by any corresponding change in the price of the finished product to the consumer, especially when the change was downward. Oftentimes, with violent day-to-day changes, there was little actual change in trend, but it was likewise a fact that the seasonal up-and-down swings were wider than any current cause would seem to justify.

Beyond question, this market situation contributed greatly to the hazards of the business. Under those conditions operations had to be planned a considerable time in advance, with constant uncertainty as to the scale of prices that would prevail when marketing time came.

Consequently stockmen have hailed with delight what seems to be a new

order of things. Ever since the disastrous price break of three years ago, brought about by unwise publicity and consumer strikes, the market has maintained a respectably normal course. This has been particularly true with regard to the market for stocker and feeder cattle, which have been in constant demand at rather satisfactory prices. W. C. Harris, of Sterling, Colorado, life-long rancher and feeder, remarked the other day that never in his experience had markets been so well stabilized as they had during the past three years.

Just what are the major causes for this improved condition and whether it can be continued indefinitely is uppermost in the minds of all cattlemen. It is realized that the old law of supply and demand has not been changed, and it is significant that during the period in question the supply has not been burdensome. It is believed, however, that other factors have had something to do with the marked improvement. Beyond question, beef is in better relative demand from consumers today than at any time since it has had to meet the serious competition of a great variety of meats, including poultry and fish. Part of this increase in demand no doubt is due to the fact that many consumers switched from pork to beef following the pig-killing campaign. Part is due to the improved quality of the beef now available to consumers, and this in turn is due not alone to improving the quality of the feeder animal but to the fact that there has been such a change in production methods that relatively little grass beef is now being offered to the consuming public, the majority of all beef of the medium and better grades being from grain-fed animals. This improvement in quality has come hand in hand with the development of the governmental beef-grading service, which has insured that the consumer gets what he pays for. Then, too, feeding is no longer a seasonal occupation. Commercial feed-lots are seldom empty at any time of year, so that a fairly uniform type of beef is always available.

Beef-cattle producers can well study these various factors that have operated to improve their market outlets. Most encouraging is the fact that during the period in question beef cattle held up remarkably well despite the onslaught on the market of a sharply increased supply of very cheap hogs. No better proof could be offered that the competitive situation is the best in history. That does not mean that it still would not be possible to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs by too sharp an increase in domestic supply, or by letting down the bars to foreign importations. The producer can have some direct influence on this first matter. He should repress any desire to become a cattle king and vastly to increase his holdings. Now is a good time to take advantage of high prices, particularly in areas where semi-drought conditions have prevailed for several years, and to put his own house in good

order, etc. That some increase in market supply is inevitable is shown by the rising census figures of the past two years, but the domestic market is expanding, the meat-advertising program is just getting under way, and some increase should be possible without disastrous effects.

As to the latter hurdle—the question of foreign imports—every cattleman should insist that his representatives in Washington, of whatever political faith, should fight for the protection of the domestic market. Here is an industry which since the drought in 1934 has not required any governmental aid. It would seem utter folly to take any step through trade treaties or tariff reductions of any kind that would place it on the level of those less fortunate agricultural groups (producers of domestic surpluses) now existing only by the aid of constant governmental subsidies.

RELATIVE FOOD VALUES

HOW MUCH IS A POUND OF BEEF-steak worth? It doesn't mean very much to say that it is 25 cents a pound, 35 cents a pound, or 45 cents a pound, as money acquires real meaning only in terms of its purchasing power. Consequently, the real test of the price of beef-steak or any other commodity is to compare its value with the value of competitive products. In a rough sense, it may be said that each and every food commodity is competitive with all others, because the average human being consumes a certain fixed poundage of food per month (if he can get it).

But to get back to the beefsteak: A few years ago a stockman was standing in a grocery store and heard a woman standing near-by complain of the price of round steak at 25 cents a pound. His eye happened to rest upon a stand loaded with heads of new cauliflower priced at 25 cents each, so he approached the lady and suggested to her that by comparison with the cauliflower beefsteak at 25 cents a pound was very cheap indeed.

In the past it has been popular for anyone who wished to start something about food prices being too high to jump upon meat the first thing. Perhaps that is because meat is the center of the well-ordered meal, but certainly it is not because meat will not bear comparison with other food commodities. Take breakfast food, for instance. The radios blast forth every day great stories of the energy that will be captured if only you eat a washtubful of flubby-dubs or some other high-sounding specialty for breakfast. But the whole package would blow away in a reasonably stiff breeze if not held down.

Too much has been said about the cost per pound of meat products; altogether too little about what you get by way of value received for your money. Now that a national meat-advertising campaign, after long years of waiting, is finally

getting under way, the other side of the story should be heard and meat presented to the public on a basis of its true value compared with other food products. We have no fears but that on that basis it will hold its own.

THEFT BILL VETOED

ON OCTOBER 21 PRESIDENT Roosevelt for the third time vetoed the McCarran national animal theft bill which would have greatly hampered livestock thieves by imposing severe penalties for interstate movement of stolen livestock.

Ironically, the main reasons assigned therefor are that it would have represented an unjustifiable extension of the federal power and would have embraced a particular class of offenses of petty larceny type. While the full text of the veto message is not available, doubtless it also mentions, as in previous vetoes, the question of cost of enforcement.

None of these reasons seems convincing to the livestock industry. Since when has the administration bashfully avoided adding to its power? When were the petty larceny limits raised to a point that would encompass the major business of livestock theft as it is operated today? Actually livestock theft comes under the heading of grand larceny in most, if not all, states today. And as for the cost, with billions being spent for relief, WPA, defense, etc., a few dollars spent for the protection of one of our great basic industries would not seem amiss.

The livestock industry has asked for very little in the way of government aid. It cherishes its independence. But state lines aid the cow thief and hamper his pursuer. The effect of the proposed bill would be to discourage interstate movement, and the actual cost would be slight.

Three vetoes will not repress the demand for this slight aid in the effort to cope with a most serious menace to the industry. Some day an understanding administration will lend its support and the job will be done.



"AW, THE HECK WITH IT, MA—
LET'S JUST SIT IN THE
SAND!"

Deaths

J. T. Sneed

TEXAS LOST ONE OF ITS OUT-standing cattlemen in the unexpected death October 15 of J. T. Sneed, Amarillo. An extensive commercial operator over a long period of years in the Texas Panhandle, Mr. Sneed was known far and wide among cattlemen. He retired only last spring from his term as president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association. At the time of his death he was an honorary vice-president of that organization. He had long been a member of the executive committee of the American National Live Stock Association.

Joe Hunt

Joe Hunt, well-known Arizona cattleman, passed away October 6. While riding on his mountain range near Clifton, his saddle girth broke, and in a fall his head struck a rock. He died instantly. He was forty-five years of age. He was first vice-president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association, and for two years had been a member of the Arizona Cattle Sanitary Board. He had served for four years as state senator from Cochise County. He was a member of the executive committee of the American National Live Stock Association.

S. E. McKnight

S. E. McKnight, seventy-six, cattleman of Carrizo Springs, Texas, died in a San Antonio hospital September 22. Mr. McKnight had been a member of the board of directors of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association for many years and was a past president of the Border Cattle Raisers' Association. He was a member of the American National Live Stock Association. He was born near Dallas. At an early age he entered the livestock business, first near Brady and later on a ranch near Melvin. He later had a ranch near Sonora, and eight years ago bought a 35,000-acre ranch near Carrizo Springs, where he was ranching at the time of his death. He is survived by his widow and two brothers.

J. H. Manderfield

J. H. Manderfield, for the past twenty-five years manager of the Salt Lake Union Stock Yards Company, died on September 19 in a Salt Lake City hospital at the age of sixty-five. Mr. Manderfield had been ill for the past two years but lately had been better. He had been an ardent booster of junior livestock activities. He was one of the founders of the national ram sale and was a leading figure in the Utah beef improvement program.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON NOTES

McCARRAN'S NATIONAL ANIMAL theft bill goes down for the third time under President Roosevelt's veto. The bill, said the President, extends federal power too far and embraces offenses of the petty larceny type. The bill would impose penalties on interstate movement of stolen livestock. The livestock industry, unable to cope locally or through state action alone with the growing theft menace, has urged enactment of such a law for a number of years. It is grateful for the help in Congress that many senators and representatives have given—Senator McCarran of Nevada, Coffee of Nebraska, Horton of Wyoming, Case of South Dakota, Murdock of Utah, Murdock of Arizona, Lewis of Colorado, and others. F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, says that "Three vetoes will not repress the demand for this slight aid in the effort to cope with a most serious menace to the industry. Some day an understanding administration will lend its support and the job will be done."

WOOL LABELING LAW PASSES

Nine months from now, nearly thirty-five years after agitation for "truth in fabrics" started, manufacturers of wool products will be required to label their wool content clearly. The new law provides that all woolen articles must bear labels showing their exact fiber content, including percentages of new and reclaimed wool. The Federal Trade Commission will enforce the measure.

NEW TAX BILL

To help defray appropriations or authorizations of about \$17,000,000,000 for a two-ocean navy and an expanded army, is the new tax bill, designed to raise \$500,000,000 next year and \$1,000,000,000 a year thereafter. It will increase by 3.1 per cent the normal tax of corporations earning more than \$25,000 a year and levy on them a graduated "excess profits" tax of from 25 to 50 per cent.

UNITED STATES BUYS HORSES

The government is spending some \$350,000 in the Southwest—Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona—as well as other amounts in other areas for army horses. The plan is to buy about 20,000 horses to add to 17,000 now in service. Reported purchases in Colorado have run from \$135 to \$200 a head. The kind of horses the government wants are good, sound geldings from four to nine years of age, fifteen to sixteen hands high, weighing more than 950 pounds, and at least sixty inches high at the withers. They must be sound in eye,

wind, and limb and must pass inspection under the saddle at walk, trot, and gallop, proving to be quiet, gentle, and well broken, traveling squarely at all gates when viewed from front and rear.

MISCELLANEOUS

Among the important acts of Congress just before it began its recessing was legislation granting draftees relief from debt payments and other civil obligations (those contracted before induction) while they are in training, appropriating and authorizing \$150,000,000 for a federal housing program for those in military service, continuing the sugar control act, and forbidding interstate transportation of convict-made goods. Left over for future decision are, among other proposals, the Walter-Logan measure to require uniform rules of procedure by administrative agencies and to permit citizens to appeal to courts on findings of fact as well as on law, the Smith bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act, a bill to increase the insurance coverage of individual bank deposits by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation from the present limit of \$5,000 to \$10,000.

DR. MELO'S STATEMENT ON ARGENTINE SANITARY PACT

LAST MONTH IN THE PRODUCER (p. 18) and in the press generally, Dr. Leopoldo Melo, Argentine delegate to the Havana conference, was credited with certain statements in which he had quoted President Roosevelt about the entry of meat into the United States. Both the President and Dr. Melo have since said that they were misquoted. What Dr. Melo actually said is translated in a reliable report as follows:

"In addition to this exchange of ideas intended to clear up the problem of the entry of our meat production, I also had the privilege of listening, in an interview that was kindly granted me at Hyde Park, to the convincing reasons of the great President Roosevelt, confirming statements made during his visit to Buenos Aires in 1936 in connection with the approval of the sanitary convention, and I heard his authorized explanations of the causes which had retarded the vote of the Senate, and the expression of his desire that within our cordial relations a solution should be reached, equitably contemplating the reciprocal interests of both nations. In order to show the causes of an institutional nature which had extended the procedure regarding the convention, President Roosevelt pointed out that the Constitution of the United States of America requires the consent of two-thirds of the Senators to approve treaties, and that, because within the organization of the federal government a state like Nevada, with only 100,000 inhabitants, approximately, has two Senators like the State of New York with a population of 14,000,000, the

weight of representation of the states of the East with a great mass of consumers is the same as that of the cattle states of the West, adding that the present time, a period of politics and electoral struggle, was not propitious for the discussion of this problem because it was possible that some of the Senators of the western states might feel very much inclined to listen to the desires of their constituents.

"These words, pronounced by the President in his habitual manner of cordial sincerity, and other statements, which are already common knowledge, by prominent government men of the Democratic party like Messrs. Hull and Welles, lead to the conviction that, once the period of political agitation is over, the right moment will arrive to bring up and solve the transcendental problem that is a source of concern to our cattle raisers."

FOREIGN NOTES

LIVESTOCK LOSSES RESULTING from air raids in the United Kingdom have not been so heavy as was expected, according to a report to the Department of Agriculture. Much of the stock killed has been salvaged and paid for by the Ministry of Foods as "casualties." Cattle and sheep have suffered most, chiefly because of their tendency to herd together. Most of the damage has been to stock in the open fields rather than in barns. . . . Petain government has prohibited export of meat, wheat, oil, fats, skins, a number of textiles, chemical products, and metal produced in France. . . . To make up for cattle fodder, which was largely imported from abroad, animals in Norway now receive a mixture of potato and a liquid made from seaweed, declares a German news agency. . . . An agreement under which Argentina would grant Britain a credit of between \$150,000,000 and \$160,000,000 for the purchase of meat and grain is reported as being discussed by the Argentine and British governments. British-owned railways and meat-packing houses in Argentina would form the security for the transaction. . . . According to a statement issued by the Department of Agriculture recently, Great Britain may soon have to turn to the United States for greater amounts of processed farm products, including lard, meats, and canned foods. . . . First consignment of free beef to the British defense forces donated by leading Argentine livestock breeders reached the United Kingdom safely. It comprised 500 tons, valued at \$100,000. . . . Argentina's virtual embargo on American imports, clamped down September 19, has been lifted. This came about after President Roosevelt signed a bill boosting the Export-Import bank's capital for loans in Latin America. . . . Arrangements have been completed by the Export-Import Bank for a \$20,000,000 credit to Argentina to be made available immediately "to assist in the importation of industrial and other equipment and materials from the United States."

TRAFFIC

THE NEW INTERSTATE COMMERCE ACT

By CHAS. E. BLAINE

THE RAILROAD RELIEF BILL, S. 2009, was signed by the President on September 18, and with minor exceptions became law on that date. Broadly speaking, such legislation (1) established new declaration of national transportation policy covering all forms of transportation, (2) amended thirteen sections of Part I of the Interstate Commerce Act relating to the railroads, (3) amended eleven sections of, and added two new sections to, Part II of said act, respecting motor carriers, (4) established as Part III of said act laws dealing with water carriers generally the same as those applicable to the railroads, and (5) established three new miscellaneous provisions of law; i.e., creating a board of three members to be appointed by the President to conduct an investigation of various modes of transportation, rates on government traffic, and amendments to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act.

The declared national transportation policy therein will, no doubt, be the subject of much controversy and litigation. It reads as follows:

"It is hereby declared to be the national transportation policy of the Congress to provide for fair and impartial regulation of all modes of transportation subject to the provisions of this act, so administered as to recognize and preserve the inherent advantages of each; to promote safe, adequate, economical, and efficient service and foster sound economic conditions in transportation and among the several carriers; to encourage the establishment and maintenance of reasonable charges for transportation services, without unjust discriminations, undue preferences or advantages, or unfair or destructive competitive practices; to co-operate with the several states and the duly authorized officials thereof; and to encourage fair wages and equitable working conditions—all to the end of developing, co-ordinating, and preserving a national transportation system by

water, highway, and rail, as well as other means, adequate to meet the needs of the commerce of the United States, of the postal service, and of the national defense. All of the provisions of this act shall be administered and enforced with a view to carrying out the above declaration of policy."

Amendment to paragraph 7 of Section 1, Part I, authorizes free transportation to the executive officers, general chairman, and counsel of employees' organizations when such organizations are authorized and designated to represent employees in accordance with the provisions of the Railroad Labor Act.

Amendment to Section 3, Part I, which prohibits the giving of undue or unreasonable preferences or advantages by carriers subject thereto provides that said provision shall not be construed to apply to discrimination, prejudice, or disadvantage to the traffic of any other carrier of whatever description.

Paragraph (a) thereof declares it to be the policy of Congress that shippers of wheat, cotton, and of other farm commodities for export shall be granted export rates on the same principals as are applicable in the case of rates on industrial products for export. Moreover, the commission is directed, on its own initiative or an application by interested persons, to make such investigations and conduct such hearings and, after appropriate proceedings, to issue such orders as may be necessary to carry out such policy.

Paragraph (b) thereof provides that the Interstate Commerce Commission is authorized and directed to institute an investigation into the rates on manufactured products, agricultural commodities, and raw materials between points in one classification territory and points in another such territory and into like rates within any of such territories, maintained by common carriers by rail or water subject to Part I, for the purpose of determining whether said rates are unjust and unreasonable or unlawful in any other respect in and of themselves or in their relation to each other and to enter such orders as may be appropriate

for the removal of any unlawfulness which may be found to exist. It further provides that the commission may confine its investigation to such manufactured products, agricultural commodities and raw materials, and the rates thereon as shippers thereof may specifically request be included in such investigation.

Section 4 of Part I, the long-and-short-haul provision, was amended in three respects: first, broadened to include not only railroads but common carriers by water under Part III as well; second, the elimination of the equidistant clause which had caused much confusion and was difficult if not impossible to comply with; and, third, by authorizing the carriers when filing fourth section application simultaneously to file the tariffs containing the proposed rates with the commission. In the event such application is approved, the commission shall permit such tariffs to become effective upon one day's notice.

Section 5 of Part I as amended applies to railroads and motor and water carriers. The former provision which required the commission to prepare tentative plan for the consolidation of rail lines of the nation into a limited number of systems was repealed. Thus the law as it now stands makes it permissible but not mandatory for the various carriers to pool, unify, and merge their facilities, subject to the approval of the commission. However, the incentive for effecting such consolidations as authorized by the law is substantially, and we fear fatally, restricted by a provision therein which, in substance, requires that the commission, as a condition of its approval, shall require a fair and equitable arrangement to protect the interests of the railroad employees affected. In its order of approval, the commission shall include terms and conditions providing that during the period of four years from the effective date of such order such transaction will not result in employees of the carrier or carriers by railroad affected by such order being in a worse position with respect to their employment, except that the protection afforded to any employee shall not be required to continue for a longer period following the effective date of the order than the period during which such em-

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ployee was in the employ of the carrier or carriers prior to the effective date of the order.

Paragraphs 11 and 12 of Section 6 (which required any common carrier by railroad to furnish on written request a written statement of the rate applicable to a described shipment and which required such carriers to keep posted in every freight station the name of a resident agent) were repealed.

Paragraph 2 of Section 13 of Part I was amended to provide that representatives of state commissions sitting with the commission in cases before the commission under said section shall receive such allowances for travel and subsistence expense as the commission shall provide.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Section 15 of Part I, which relate to the commission's authority to establish through routes, etc., were amended in several respects. However, such amendments, in our opinion, fall far short of removing the inhibitions against the commission establishing through routes which would short-haul any of the rail lines embraced in such through route, as proposed by the commission and supported by numerous short-line railroads and shippers of the nation in separate bills in the Congress. As we view it, the law as amended strengthens the position of the originating carriers that they should not be short-hauled. The commission is admonished therein:

"That in prescribing through routes, the commission shall, so far as is consistent with the public interest and subject to the foregoing limitations in clauses (a) and (b), give reasonable preference to the carrier by railroad which originates the traffic. No through route and joint rates applicable thereto shall be established by the commission for the purpose of assisting any carrier that would participate therein to meet its financial needs."

Amendment to paragraph 7 of Section 15 provides that at any hearing involving a change in a rate, fare, charge, or classification, or in a rule, regulation, or practice, the burden of proof shall be upon the carrier to show that the proposed changed rate, fare, etc., is just and reasonable. Thus the burden of proof is upon the carrier, whether an increase or a reduction is concerned. Prior to this amendment, such burden was upon the carrier only where an increase was involved.

The rule of rate-making contained in paragraph 2, Section 15(a) was left unchanged. Substantially the same rule was written into the new laws governing motor carriers and water carriers.

Amendments to Section 16 of Part I shorten from three years to two years the statute of limitation respecting (a) actions at law by carriers for recovery of their charges and (b) for recovery of overcharges by shippers.

As under the statute as amended the lapse of time not only bars the remedy but destroys the liability, shippers under the provisions of the new law must file

their claims or bring actions at law for the recovery of overcharges within two years from the date the shipments covered thereby are delivered.

Section 17 of Part I respecting commission procedure, delegation of duties, etc., was amended in important respects so as to allow the commission to assign various matters coming before it to a division, an individual commissioner, or to a board composed of three or more eligible employees of the commission.

Section 25 of Part I, respecting schedules and rates of water carriers in foreign commerce, was repealed and former Sections 26 and 27 were renumbered 25 and 26.

Amendments to Section 202, relating to the scope of Part II, repealed subsection (a) thereof containing the declaration of policy of the Congress respecting motor carriers and the other provisions of Part II were amended by striking out "the policy declared in Section 202 (a) of this part," and "the policy of Congress enunciated in Section 202," and by inserting in lieu thereof "the national transportation policy declared in this act."

Subsection (a) of Section 204 was amended by the addition of a new Section 4(a) authorizing the exemption of certain interstate and foreign commerce operations of motor carriers performed by any motor carrier or class of motor carriers engaged in operation solely within a single state.

Amendment to Section 216 (g)(2) of Part II authorizes the commission to suspend rates, fares, charges, classifications, and practices of motor carriers for a maximum period of seven months, which is the same as the period named for suspension of like schedules of rail and water carriers. Previously the maximum period for suspension of schedules of motor carriers was 180 days.

Amendment to Section 216 (g)(3) places the burden of proof upon the motor carrier in suspension cases where either an increase or a reduction is concerned, and, as previously stated, incorporates substantially the same rule of rate-making as that in Part I and Part III.

Section 225, one of the added new sections, provides that, if the owner of the property transported under Part II directly or indirectly renders any service connected with such transportation or furnishes any instrumentalities used therein, the charge and allowance therefor made by the carrier to the owner shall be published in tariffs or schedules filed with the commission and shall be no more than is just and reasonable.

The remaining new section authorizes and directs the Interstate Commerce Commission to expedite the investigation of the need for federal regulation of sizes and weights of motor vehicles, authorized by Section 226 of the act, as amended, and to report to Congress thereon at the earliest possible date.

Prior to the enactment of this provision, the commission had prepared and

disseminated three reports, numbered 1, 2, and 3, comprising a total of 659 sheets, respecting this subject, and announced that two additional reports would be released in the near future.

Section 308 (f)(1), relating to water carriers, fixes limit of three years from the time shipments are delivered in which all complaints against carriers for the recovery of damages or overcharges shall be filed. This exceeds by one year like limitation respecting complaints for recovery of damages or overcharges under Parts I and II.

Section 320 of Part III repeals portions of the Shipping Act, 1916; the Intercoastal Shipping Act, 1933; the Merchant Marine Act, 1920; and the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, in so far as they are inconsistent with any provision of Part III of the new law.

Section 322 (b) of Part III provides that any proceeding, hearing, or investigation commenced or pending before the United States Maritime Commission at the time this section takes effect, to the extent that it relates to the administration of any provision of law repealed by Part III, shall be continued or otherwise acted upon by the commission as though such proceeding, hearing, or investigation had been instituted under the provisions of this part.

The board set up to conduct investigation of various modes of transportation shall consist of three members appointed by the President who shall receive compensation at the rate of \$10,000 per annum, one secretary at \$7,500 per annum, and a general counsel at \$9,000 per annum. In addition, the board is authorized to employ such experts, assistants, special agents, and as many attorneys and other employees as in its judgment may be necessary for the performance of its duties and is authorized to utilize the services, information, facilities, and personnel of the various departments and agencies of the government. The life of the board is two years from the enactment of the law, unless extended by proclamation of the President for an additional period which shall not exceed two years.

It shall be the duty of the board to investigate:

"(1) the relative economy and fitness of carriers by railroad, motor carriers, and water carriers for transportation service, or any particular classes or descriptions thereof, with the view of determining the service for which each type of carrier is especially fitted or unfitted; the methods by which each type can and should be developed so that there may be provided a national transportation system adequate to meet the needs of the commerce of the United States, of the postal service and of the national defense;

"(2) the extent to which right-of-way or other transportation facilities and special services have been or are provided from public funds for the use, within the territorial limits of the continental United States, of each of the three types of carriers without adequate compensation, direct or indirect, therefor, and the

extent to which such carriers have been or are aided by donations of public property, payments from public funds in excess of adequate compensation for services rendered in return therefor, or extensions of government credit; and

"(3) the extent to which taxes are imposed upon such carriers by the United States and the several states, and by other agencies of government, including country, municipal, district, and local agencies.

"(b) The board is further authorized, in its discretion, to investigate or consider any other matter relating to rail carriers, motor carriers, or water carriers which it may deem important to investigate for the improvement of transportation conditions and to effectuate the national transportation policy declared in the Interstate Commerce Act, as amended."

The government is required to pay full rates for its transportation except on military or naval property of the United States moved for military or naval and not for civil use or on the transportation of members of the military or naval forces of the United States (or of property of such members) when they are traveling on official duty, and with the further exception that

"If any carrier by railroad furnishing such transportation, or any predecessor in interest, shall have received a grant of lands from the United States to aid in the construction of any part of the railroad operated by it, the provisions of law with respect to compensation for such transportation shall continue to apply to such transportation as though subsection (a) of this section had not been enacted until such carrier shall file with the secretary of the interior, in the form and manner prescribed by him, a release of any claim it may have against the United States to lands, interests in lands, compensation, or reimbursement on account of lands or interests in lands which have been granted, claimed to have been granted, or which it is claimed should have been granted to such carrier or any such predecessor in interest under any grant to such carrier or such predecessor in interest as aforesaid. Such release must be filed within one year from the date of the enactment of this act."

In paying for transportation, the government is authorized to deduct the amount of any overpayment to any carrier from any amount subsequently found to be due such carrier.

The amendments to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act among other things empower the corporation, with the approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission, to purchase for itself or for account of a railroad obligated thereon, the obligations of railroads engaged in interstate commerce or of receivers or trustees thereof, including equipment trust certificates. The question thus arises whether this provision of the law is directed ultimately to government ownership and operation of the railroads.

* * *

Effective date of the Interstate Commerce Commission's order in the 85 per cent case has been extended from October 25 to November 15, 1940.

MARKETS

OCTOBER LIVESTOCK MARKET CONDITIONS

By H. W. FRENCH

SHARP PRICE RISES OCCURRED

On strictly good-to-prime fed steers and heifers at Chicago, and by the end of the third week of October such offerings were largely 50 to 75 cents higher than at the end of September. This new advance followed a much sharper upturn through September. Urgent shipping demand has been of much benefit to sellers, because at times the large packers were hesitant about buying on the rise. While the better grades were working unevenly higher, it was a different story on common and medium grades, and in three weeks such offerings at best were not over 25 cents higher. An outstanding feature recently was the abundance of strictly good-to-prime grain-fed offerings, as contrasted with a scarcity of medium-to-average good cattle.

Beef cows did not fare so well as steers and heifers and prices fluctuated severely, although recovery often occurred following a decline. Late in October, beef cows were mostly steady to 25 cents lower than at the close of September, with canners and cutters showing a somewhat similar trend. Bulls for the same period were around 25 to 50 cents lower. Calves and vealers moved at irregular levels, both sharp advances and big declines appearing from time to time, late sales averaging little different from a month ago.

Receipts of cattle at sixty-five markets of the country for September were over 1,500,000 head and showed an increase of 6.4 per cent compared with a year ago. On the other hand, calves, with nearly 613,000 head available, fell down in volume 5.6 per cent. Purchases of stocker and feeder cattle at these markets during September were 12.8 per cent larger than a year ago, purchases of stocker and feeder calves showing an increase of 1.2 per cent.

Holdings of beef in packing-houses and in cold storage plants on October 1 totaled 36,359,000 pounds, or slightly less than a year ago, and compared with the October 1 five-year average, 1935-39, the decrease amounted to 11,368,000 pounds. There were 811,567 cattle and 416,949 calves slaughtered under federal inspection during September, as compared with 880,343 cattle and 427,469 calves in the corresponding month last year. The nine months' slaughter of 7,046,671 cattle and 3,957,771 calves was little different from a year ago.

According to a report recently released by the Department of Agriculture, it appears that the number of cattle fed for market during the winter and spring of 1940-41 may be about the same as a year earlier. There may be considerable variation among the different states in the changes from last year, but develop-

ments in the feeding situation to the end of September point to little change in the total in the Corn Belt or in the total for other states. Shipments of stockers and feeders into the Corn Belt from public stockyards for the three months July to September were the largest for the period since 1923. Direct shipments of feeder cattle also were larger than last year. Indications, however, point to a smaller number in the eastern Corn Belt as against a larger number in the western Corn Belt. Shipments into Iowa have been unusually large.

Some increase is reported in the states west of the Continental Divide, but the total for the Rocky Mountain states may be smaller, largely as a result of a reduction in Colorado. Texas and Oklahoma may increase the feeding of cattle over a year ago. Reports indicate there will be a decrease in heavy steers (over 1,000 pounds), little change in medium weights (800-1,000 pounds), and an increase in weights below 800 pounds. Feeder calf shipments were smaller, while there was little change in stocker and feeder cows and heifers. The in-movement during October and November may change the situation somewhat, but available information is not sufficient to indicate what may happen during the closing months of the year.

AS LONG as the market has developed considerable bullishness of late, it may be of interest to note that at the end of the third week of October prices for good-to-choice fed steers were anywhere from \$1.50 to \$3 higher than a year ago, while common and medium grades looked steady to \$1 higher. Heifers grading good and better were largely \$1 to \$1.50 for the same period. Beef cows showed 25 to 50 cents upturn in the period, as against a steady to 25-cent lower market for canner and cutter animals and a steady trade for bulls and vealers.

Although \$13.90 was reached by best fed steers late in September, it was not until October 17 that the \$14 animal was ushered into the market picture, as buyers resisted all earlier efforts of sellers to obtain that figure. On that day, however, a new top for the season's crop of \$14.10 was registered and this price was paid for a load of prime 1,218-pound Iowa fed steers. The same day there were four loads averaging 1,275 pounds at \$14. Most of the highly finished steers came within the 1,100- to 1,300-pound weights. The new top on fed heifers was \$12.75 at Chicago, where some others reached \$12.50 and other good-to-choice kinds scored \$9.50 to \$12.25. Best passed \$12 at Missouri River markets and some at Denver made \$12.

During October the upper crust of fed steers sold largely at \$13 to \$13.90, with lightweights to \$13.85 and strictly yearlings as high as \$13.40. Any number of steers landed at \$10.50 to \$12.75 and some overdone 1,838-pound offerings

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cleared at \$11.25. Short-feds of medium grade were to be had at \$9 to \$10.25. Grassers were in meager supply throughout, and it begins to appear as though the run from the Northwest will be far below that of a year ago. Killer steers obtainable at \$10 and down were unusually active owing to urgent competition from feeder buyers. There were some heavy Montana grass steers to killers up to \$9.75, but most grassers were to be had below \$9.50 with common natives largely around \$7 to \$7.50.

Many of the common and medium grass-fat steers at Kansas City sold at \$6.25 to \$8.35, but heavy kinds fed grain on the grass reached \$10.50. Canadian steers at Sioux City were reported at \$8.75 to \$9.25. Most of the western grass-fat cows at the principal markets sold at \$5.75 to \$6.75, although there were some sales at \$7 to \$7.50, some 1,200-pound offerings at Denver reaching \$7.25. Any number of canners and cutters cleared at \$3.75 to \$5.25. Grass-fat heifers sold chiefly at \$6.50 to \$8.50, although some made \$9 and better; but common lots of a dairy type went below \$6. Heavy sausage bulls at the high time sold around \$7.50 at Chicago, but the practical limit late in the month was \$7. Vealers worth \$11.50 at that market at mid-October sold before the break at \$12 and considerably above.

Apparently stocker and feeder prices are not considered high, because the country demand at the public markets and on the ranges holds up surprisingly well and when any weakness develops it is short-lived. Most buyers give keenest competition on the strictly good and choice lightweight cattle and even when buying calves they go most readily after the little animals. Late in October stocker and feeder classes at Chicago were mainly 50 cents to \$1 higher than a year ago, not showing so much upturn for the period as did slaughter offerings.

Many of the markets reported choice yearling stock steers at \$11 and above, some 630-pound Wyomings at Chicago scoring \$11.40, going to an Indiana buyer. Early in October many feeder steers at Chicago sold at \$8.75 to \$9.75, with 1,100-pound Montanas at \$9.85, and these cattle were 25 to 75 cents cheaper three weeks earlier. Most of the good-to-choice stocker and feeder steers for the month sold at \$8.50 to \$10.50, but common and medium grades were often obtainable at \$7 to \$8.25. Good-to-choice steer calves usually made \$10 to \$12, but Omaha and Sioux City reported sales up to \$13. Comparable heifer calves bulked at \$9 to \$10.25, with best at \$10.75 to \$11.50. Most of the stock cows at Chicago were obtained at \$5 to \$6, and the bulk of the heifers on country account landed at \$9 down.

MINOR fluctuations featured the hog market during October, and buyers favored weights around 200 to 300 pounds, whereas a short time ago there was more urgent call for barrows and gilts averaging 180 to 250 pounds. Dis-

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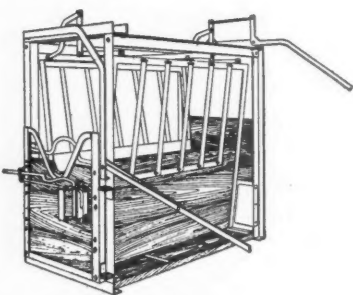
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crimination against those from 160 pounds down was severe and probably will continue so, especially as most of such weights coming to market are lacking in finish. One of the surprising and outstanding features of the current hog market is the sudden increase in the demand for packing sows, and such animals often sell within 10 to 25 cents of the top on butchers. Packers are filling government contracts for pork, and the bigger weights are usually wanted, acting as a prop under the market for heavy butchers and packing sows.

Best butchers at Chicago closed September at \$6.60 and three weeks later the top rested at \$6.65 while within that period some sold as high as \$6.75. Most of the 200- to 300-pound butchers landed at \$6.45 to \$6.60 when grading good to choice; yet comparable 140- to 160-pound offerings were obtainable at \$5.50 to \$6.15. Even butchers averaging 350 pounds commanded a better price than those averaging 180 pounds. Good packing sows at the end of September were worth \$5.25 to \$6.30 and comparable offerings closed the third week in October at \$5.60 to \$6.35.

Dressed pork prices continued uneven, but there has been an upward swing in the East, especially on pork loins. At mid-October No. 1 pork loins in New York were quoted at \$17.50 to \$19 per cwt. on weights from eight to fifteen pounds as compared with \$15 to \$17.50 on October 1.

Hogs slaughtered under federal inspection during September, 1940, totaled 3,168,454 as compared with 2,885,318 a year ago. The nine months' total for January to September, inclusive, was 34,432,842 against 28,149,458 for the corresponding period in 1939. Cold storage holdings of all pork on October 1 totaled 328,739,000 pounds against 300,266,000 pounds a year ago and compared with 279,841,000 pounds for the five-year average 1935-39. Lard holdings as of October 1 at 234,594,000 pounds were 37,646,000 pounds short of September, 1940, but stood 155,800,000 pounds larger than October 1 last year and 156,894,000 pounds above the five-year average 1935-39 for October 1.

THE movement to market of range lambs in Colorado is practically at an end, with over 80 per cent of the crop shipped out by the middle of October. Buyers have been compelled to depend almost entirely on Colorado offerings for choice quality, as other range lambs moving to market were largely of medium-to-good grade, although some loads from Wyoming, Utah, and Washington were strictly good and choice. Undoubtedly from now on sorted natives will be topping the market at most points, as some of these will grade choice, although that kind may not be available in the volume noted until recently in the Colorado supplies.

Frequent changes were noted in slaughter lamb prices after the start of

October, but the net difference at the end of the third week of the month was not very great, as values at that time were only weak to 25 cents lower than at the close of September. Slaughter ewes found a broad outlet, mainly because of the comparatively light supply, and at Chicago the advance measured 25 to 50 cents for the first three weeks of October.

Choice 30- to 60-pound dressed lamb at New York at the start of October was quoted at \$16 to \$19 per cwt., and comparable offerings on October 15 were worth \$15.50 to \$18.50. Good-grade lamb of similar weight brought \$15 to \$17.50 on October 1 and \$14.50 to \$18 at the middle of the month.

Chicago reported native lambs up to \$9.75 and choice 73-pound Utahs as high as \$9.65, but in the third week of October there were no slaughter lambs above \$9.40. Many good-to-choice lambs sold at \$9 to \$9.25, and at the high time of the month strictly choice Colorados at Denver scored \$9.85, the highest figure since August. Any number of fed woolled and fed clipped lambs have been returning to market in recent weeks, and volume of this type will increase or killers will find supplies inadequate. Fed western lambs have been returned chiefly at \$8.75 to \$9.15, while the shorn fed offerings cleared largely around \$8.25 to \$8.40, with best up to \$8.75. Fed yearling wethers were taken generally at \$7 to \$8, some reaching \$8.25 at Omaha. Missouri River markets reported best slaughter ewes at \$4 down and good kinds at \$3 to \$3.75, but good-to-choice offerings at Chicago were taken at \$4 to \$4.40 if not too heavy.

Early October information indicates that there will be at least as many lambs fed during the 1940-41 feeding season as were fed a year earlier. Shipments of feeder lambs into the Corn Belt from July to September were liberal and about as heavy as the unusually big shipments of last year and much above the average for the period. There was a sharp reduction for Illinois and some reduction in Ohio and Indiana, but increases were reported by Michigan and Wisconsin. Large increases were reported for Iowa and Kansas and some gain in Minnesota, but movement into Missouri and Nebraska fell off.

The number fed in the Rocky Mountain states will be smaller, with a sharp decrease for Colorado, little change in Wyoming and New Mexico, and an increase in Montana. The number to be fed west of the Continental Divide will be greater, with definite increases in California and Washington. Texas and Oklahoma expect to feed more lambs. Wheat pastures have made excellent growth this fall, and the movement of lambs to these pastures may be the greatest on record. Many lambs that might have gone to feed-lots in Colorado and the Scottsbluff area of Nebraska and Wyoming will go to wheat pastures.

Feeding lambs have been costing most-

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ly around \$8 at loading points, and for that reason many prospective feeders have switched their buying to the public markets, where they are supporting the trade unexpectedly well. Most of the big markets have been reporting good-to-choice feeding lambs around \$8.75 to \$9, with numerous sales at \$9.10 to \$9.25 and medium-to-good lots at \$8 to \$8.50. These prices were paid for rangers, as natives usually sold at about \$1 discount. Short-term breeding ewes were reported usually at \$3.40 to \$4.75, but solid-mouth kinds, good for longer use, scored \$5 to \$5.75, and at Omaha mixed yearling to three-year-old ewes landed at \$8.

WOOL IN BETTER SHAPE; UPSWING IN HIDES

By H. W. FRENCH

WOOL GROWERS ARE IN A MUCH more favorable position than a short time ago as government placement of orders for woolen goods is in evidence. Needs are great and urgent, so that future orders will be of liberal volume. Considerable expansion in civilian demand for woolen goods also was a strengthening factor and has resulted in a step-up in the trade in textile markets. Many manufacturers have abandoned their recent hand-to-mouth buying policy and are making purchases for three months ahead. Present orders are sufficient to keep mills busy for several months. Dealers report sales of blankets and sweaters the heaviest in years. The market shows some irregularity; but values at Boston for the better-grade wools at mid-October were generally 6 cents to 8 cents per pound higher on a scoured basis than the middle of September, with instances up still more, although some low quarter blood and common and braid showed little advance.

Over 4,600,000 pounds of western wool in storage in the West sold in Boston at auction and at private sale during the four days, October 15-18, inclusive, at levels 6 to 8 cents above bids made for identical offerings last July. All prices were f.o.b. storage points. These wools are stored chiefly at Denver and Ogden. There were some heavy shrinking Kansas and New Mexico wools unsold with bids 11 to 16 cents per pound; but of the entire offerings 93 per cent found a clearance.

The first day of the auction grease basis prices on Utah wools, which comprised the bulk of the offerings in original bags, ranged from 28 to 35½ cents. Six lots of original Wyomings sold at 31½ to 35¼ cents, while one choice lot made 39¼ cents. Three original lots of Idaho wools ranged from 32½ to 35½ cents. Grease basis prices on graded wool ranged from 26½ to 33¼ cents for fine, 32 to 34¼ cents for half blood, 33 to 36¼ cents for three-eighths blood, and 34 to 37¼ cents for quarter blood. One lot of low quarter blood sold at 34½ cents.

During the second session thirty-six lots of Wyoming wool sold at 30½ to 36¼ cents, the bulk making 32 to 35 cents. Twenty-three lots of Colorado wools brought mostly 29 to 35¼ cents for the better type and 23 to 27¼ cents for short wools of heavy shrinkage. Three lots of Utah wool went at 32 to 33 cents. Prices ranged from 27 to 33 cents on four lots from New Mexico. One lot of Arizona wool brought 32 to 34 cents, but five other lots cleared at 22¼ to 28 cents. Two lots of Nebraska wool brought 25¼ to 31 cents. Three lots of Montana wool made 33¼ to 40¼ cents. Four lots from South Dakota sold at 31½ to 37¼ cents.

In the sale the third day one large original clip of Wyoming bid 35 cents was withdrawn. All graded wools sold, but bidding dragged occasionally on original lots. Prices of Colorado original wools were mostly 31 to 37¼ cents, one heavy lot going at 26 cents. Three lots of average New Mexico wool brought 29 to 30½ cents, while two heavy lots made 26 to 26¼ cents. Some original bag Wyoming sold at 30 to 37¼ cents. Prices of graded wools were mostly 30 to 35 cents on fine, with some 37 cents; half blood, 32½ to 38¼ cents, mostly 33½ to 35 cents; three-eighths blood 33 to 38¼ cents, mostly 33 to 36¼ cents; and quarter blood, 33½ to 41 cents, mostly 33½ to 36¼ cents.

Graded Montana wools, stored at Billings, on the fourth day brought 30¼ to 37 cents for fine, 34 to 36¼ cents for three eighths blood, and 38 to 39 cents for quarter blood.

Considerable wool of late has changed hands at country points, and late in September around 2,000,000 pounds were sold in the Rock Springs, Wyoming, section.

During the third week of October, demand on the Boston market was persistent on fleece wools. Graded fine delaine bright fleeces brought 41 to 44 cents in the grease. Graded combing three-eighths blood made 44 to 47 cents. Late sales of country packed mixed lots of three-eighths and quarter bright fleeces closed at 45 to 46 cents. Sales of territory wools comprised large quantities of graded and original fine wools. Graded French combing fine sold mostly at \$1 to \$1.05, scoured basis. Original bag lots of fine territory wools brought \$1 to \$1.05, scoured basis, for good French combing, and 97 cents to \$1.02 for short-to-average French combing. Graded French combing half blood brought 97 cents to \$1.02, with combing three-eighths blood territory at 87 to 90 cents. Twelve-month Texas wools were taken at \$1 to \$1.05, scoured basis.

THERE was an upward swing in the hide market under broader demand, and take-offs are usually moved currently. Sales late in October were around 1 cent to 2 cents higher per pound than a month earlier. Some concerns were bullish and in no hurry to unload their holdings, in contrast to others ready to

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accept prevailing prices. Western steer hides on a Chicago basis have been selling at 12 to 12½ cents per pound, while western cows brought 10 to 10¼ cents per pound. Native steer hides were worth around 13 to 14 cents.

Information from New York on October 17 indicated a firm market, with native steers quoted at 14 cents; Colorado, 11½ cents; light native cows, 13 cents; branded cows, 11½ cents, and butt brands 12 cents.

MARKET REPORTS FROM MIDWEST AND EAST

By DAVID I. DAY

AT THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER, too many native fed steers were unloaded on the Chicago market and prices proceeded on an unevenly lower path. Only the choice long-feds provided the exception to the decline, and this extremely small part of the total offering managed to hold a steady level. The drop was as low as 40 cents on late market, with the remainder taking a decline of only 15 to 25 cents.

On the face of the figures, it looked like a market under pressure; but the truth is that too many of the steers landed in the \$11 to \$12 class, so the sharpest decline was on these steers. The eastern orders were only moderately broad, the wholesale beef markets on the Atlantic seaboard being on a somewhat lower basis. So light an offering of strictly high-grade animals could not have met the demand of a month ago but was amply sufficient to meet all mid-September calls. A limited number of sales were made at \$13 to \$13.40, with an extreme top of \$13.65.

Some 4,000 western rangers were in the run at Chicago about September 16, bringing the 1940 total on that market

to 19,500—considerably more than for the corresponding period of 1939; decidedly less than for the first eight and a half months of 1938. These westerns were mostly replacement stock, carrying only a small proportion of killer steers. A majority of the feeders was sold at \$10.25, a few around \$10.50, some very fair kinds going at \$8.50 or less.

Buyers did not like the asking prices on lambs as the Monday morning market opened in Chicago on September 16; but, before the day was over, prices had climbed from 15 cents to 25 cents higher and city butchers had paid up to \$9.65 for choice native offerings, the best packer price being \$9.50. Some shipments of fed yearlings sold steady at \$7.85. A few feeder lambs were culled from come-back shipments and sold at around \$8.85. There were few old sheep, but they were selling steady, some old ewes selling around \$3.75.

The Chicago hog market started the final half of September with smaller receipts and lower prices, the extreme top on September 16 being \$6.80, with wholesale fresh pork markets lower, extreme loins top being \$19.

Throughout the third week of the month, the cattle market continued draggy—a condition in which even the best long-fed steers shared to some small extent. The medium and good grades continued with slight variation to be slow and steady to weak. Heifers were mostly steady to a little lower. Beef cows were mostly strong to a shade higher. Bulls were barely steady. Calves continued a little lower. By midweek, a sharp decline in quality, as compared with the previous week, was everywhere in evidence. Stockers and feeders continued dull all week.

As the week ended, the trading in the cattle alleys was apathetic, trends were definitely uneven, quotations considerably

mixed. Fewer cattle were in at Chicago than for the week before. The most interesting thing observed in a study of this period is a much broader demand noted for all cheaper cattle. This includes all canners, cutters, yellow-hammer steers, heifers, and plainer killers. Low-grade cows had shown higher every day. Top cutters sold at \$5.75—a record figure for over ten years, barring the war flurry market of a year ago. Plain yellows bulked around \$6, some moving at \$4.50. A little fleshier kind brought up to \$7, and a few up to \$7.25. Everything declined in the fed steer line except really choice to prime steers.

The week closed with fat lambs around 25 cents lower than on the previous Saturday, with old sheep and yearlings steady and feeders stronger. The best native lambs in for the week sold at \$9.65, with western top at \$9.25, feeder top at \$9.15, and so on down to old wethers and ewes at \$3 and \$4. Few changes on the hog market were noted all week.

All week at Sioux City, slaughter steer and yearling trade carried a weak undertone due to the slump in the eastern dressed beef market. The real quality long-feds held fairly firm, while common and medium kinds lost 25 cents and more. Hog prices fluctuated often, with the week closing on light butchers topping at around \$6.60. Fewer fat lambs were in and the market depressed, the top figure stopping at around \$8.85. The stocker and feeder trade was a little lower for the week. The best light-weight yearlings and calves held steady and in some instances stronger. But the medium and plainer kinds were off 25 cents a hundred. Buyers were noticeably paying greater attention to quality. The best yearlings sold at \$10.25 and \$10.50, goods up to \$9.75, medium white-faced stuff up to \$9, medium Shorthorns around \$8.50, plainer reds at \$7.50.

There were more plain and off-colored cattle than usual, priced around \$6 and \$6.50, with some dogies down to \$5.50. Only a few heifers were in to command \$9, and plenty were for sale weighing around 700 pounds at around \$7, with most of the cows on the market just medium to good and bringing \$5 to \$6. The Sioux City feeding lambs hit a top of only \$8.90, bulk of the offering being a shade lower, with short-term breeding ewes selling at not more than \$4.50.

The largest supply of feeders and stockers so far seen there in 1940 were in Kansas City the third week of September. Practically all these cattle hailed from Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. A few extra nice Kansans made \$10.35 and over, but the bulk of the good-to-choice white-faced steers brought \$8 to \$9.50, good tip-horned feeders selling at \$8 and over, medium grades as low as \$7, and commons at \$6. A fair supply of white-faced yearlings ran all the way from \$10.25 down to \$7.75. Stock calves were plentiful but held steady all week—from \$11.25 down to some Shorthorn heifers at around \$7.75. Stock heifers

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were rather draggy, only a few reaching \$9. The week ended with a considerable carryover in cattle over 700 pounds, the calf carryover light, and the demand definitely for lighter weights.

BACK in Indiana, Purdue University's statisticians figured in mid-September that the August drought had cut the corn crop to 61 per cent of the 1939 crop, farmers everywhere reporting sappy ears and otherwise feeling that the university's estimate was a shade high. There was a bigger oat crop than usual in the state, a heavy corn carryover, plenty of silage being stored, so farmers figure the number of feeder cattle carried will be about the same in the state as last year. In driving over Illinois recently, your correspondent found corn very spotted. Some counties seemed to have nearly a normal crop, others extremely poor. In addition to the dry weather, every known bug and insect that preys upon growing corn gathered in force this summer.

The last full week in September opened with lower prices paid for the bulk of cattle offered. The demand lagged and prices declined somewhat on all cows and feeders—a condition which merely reflected the continued weakness in the dressed beef market. The trade on steers continued slow, and feeders went lower the following day. The buying side complained with cause on the general situation, as dressed trade was poor and just ahead were a couple of kosher holidays. For two weeks the medium to good grade steers had been pushed down sharply, so the spread between this kind and the extreme top grades was so wide as to occasion comment and criticism. This was the picture as the week advanced. Price changes were minor, and the choice long-feds had the most attractive outlet. By September 27, the supply was extremely light of the choice kind, and the top was \$12. Grassers were dull, heifers, stockers, and feeders were about steady, calves were weak, and low-quality stuff sold well—just a trifle under the prices paid a week before. Taking the week as a whole, the situation looks worse on paper than it was, due to average quality being lower. Very few really choice steers showed up.

More western stockers and feeders were in Chicago the last six or seven days of the month than had shown up there any week all year. Prices broke on replacement stock. A lot of good yearlings sold around \$9 and \$9.25, and comparatively few were excellent enough to command a price of \$10. Western cows were off, only a few bringing \$7. There were few heifers. There were even fewer desirable heavy killers. All week, there was a very light supply of fat lambs; yet prices were erratic. A comparatively short number of western feeder lambs were seen in Chicago, and the demand was good for the quality stuff. It was easy to get \$9 to \$9.15 for the best light feeders, but burry and wrinkled lambs were not in such demand, bringing \$8.40 to \$8.75. The best price

for native lambs was \$9.40, and the top on fed westerns was \$9.35. Much to the Corn Belt farmers' disgust, the hog demand swung to extremely heavy lard hogs as September prepared to depart—300-pounders and bigger bringing peak prices for the period. Loin prices all week were much below those of a month ago and practically identical with those of a year ago.

The same period of the month found a curtailed supply of stockers and feeders in Sioux City, with prices generally around 25 cents higher. Demand slackened later in the week, but prices held up well. The best calves sold up to \$12.75, with the bulk selling from \$11 to \$12, some heifer calves as low as \$9.50. Some yearlings went to Iowa farms—nice 550- to 600-pound animals—at around \$11. Of course, plainer sorts ranged downward, some selling at \$7.50, with off-colored dairy typers going as low as \$5.75 and \$5.50. A few fleshy feeders sold around \$10; more sold around \$8 and \$9. There were a very few outstanding heifers there, and the top was \$9. Light feeding cows went from \$5 to \$6. Some Wyoming lightweight lambs sold at \$9, but most of the feeding shipments went from \$8.65, natives up to \$8, breeding ewes up to \$4.50, with a sprinkling of solid-mouth Idaho ewes up to \$5.75. The slaughter steer and yearling trade, the lamb slaughter orders, and the market hog situation in Sioux City and elsewhere followed closely the situation in Chicago.

In Kansas City, the feeder cattle situation was in line pretty well with that in Sioux City—supplies light, prices 25 cents higher, with Colorado and New Mexico shipments showing up, demand best for the best stock, and all market officials predicting the advent of October would witness there the biggest selection of feeder cattle so far in 1940.

The month closed in Chicago with the kosher holidays cutting in heavily on fed steer orders, the most severe pressure being applied to the long-fed kind, which was selling weak to 25 cents lower. The medium to good kinds were subjected to practically no price change. Best fed heifers were steady; other heifers, rather uneven. Beef cows were mostly a little lower; canners and cutters and bulls and vealers were all steady; stockers and feeders a little stronger.

WITH October in, the kosher holidays still being felt, eastern orders were broader than the supply for good steers, so the best long-feds brought a little better money. In fact, all steers were better than the week before, when the right quality was visible. So far as Chicago was concerned, there was more plain stuff present than at any time possibly all season. It was evident that the country was holding back a lot of good-grade steers. The relatively few high-grade steers appealed to buyers, some few hitting a top of \$13.75, more bringing \$11 to \$11.75, with short-feds reaching \$10 to \$10.75.

This first October week made an interesting study. Small receipts the first day or two were explained by the kosher holidays; but, after these occasions were celebrated, there was little or no increase in numbers. There were larger orders on hand, too, so good gains were made, the upturn on fed steers being as high as 50 cents, with all short-feds and grassers better by about 25 cents. Steers and yearlings going at \$12 or a shade over made the most improvement for the week. Local buyers were mainly responsible for stepping up the market's pace, and by the close of the week's activities there was some substitution of near-top cattle for what was really wanted. There were more lightweights

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than heavy cattle present, but finish was the attraction, so both kinds sold practically on a par. Several sales were above \$13.50; a few loads moved at \$13.90. All over the board, the movement was upward, the week's average reaching \$11.60—the best in three years.

Short-feds reached \$11, grassers brought down to \$8.75, with the south-westerns bulking at \$7 and over. The supply of stockers and feeders seemed about as light as ever in history for the first days of October, but the quality was good and mostly sold at \$9.75 or under; a few choice bunches of yearlings found buyers at \$10, with calves up to \$11 and \$11.50; cows mostly under \$7.

Fat lambs were up over the previous week by 25 cents to 40 cents, old sheep 10 cents to 15 cents higher, yearlings and feeders firm. The western range lamb top was \$9.65, while the top for native lambs stopped at around \$9.50. Feeding lambs continued in active demand at anywhere from \$8.75 to \$9.10, but the supply was noticeably small. The hog market continued much the same as the last ten days of September, with a practical top of \$6.50 or under. There was a feeling that, with beef on the up and pork on the decline, the attractive retail pork prices would stimulate consumption and demand later.

At the Sioux City market, stockers and feeders found a good trade at the first of the month, many white-faced yearlings bringing \$10 to \$10.25, some very sleek bunches cashing in at around \$10.50. The bulk of the fat lambs cleared at around \$9, with few hogs on hand and these only good for a top of something over \$6. Pretty much the same situation prevailed as to stockers and feeders in Kansas City.

Slow action quickened somewhat toward the tenth of the month in Chicago, considerably improving the fat steers and yearlings, some few reaching \$13.80 and \$13.90. The quality of the offering showed improvement and the beef trade was better, so prices moved a little higher. Heavy cattle were sold to a little better advantage than lightweights. In order to fill the demand, buyers went after cattle in the \$12 column more briskly, resulting in maximum gains on that class of stuff. While buyers took these animals, many of which were just good-quality short-feds, they did so under some protest, feeling the spread was not sufficiently wide between them and the real quality long-fed steers. Strictly short-fed steers were selling from \$10.75 to \$11.75. Action seemed rather slow on stockers and feeders, but some fancy yearlings and calves sold at \$10.50 to \$11.50.

At Sioux City and other markets, the situation was virtually as at Chicago on all killer cattle, sheep, and hogs. At the Iowa market, a fairly good selection of stockers and feeders continued, with reduced offerings of Shorthorns selling at \$8.25 and below; white-faced yearlings were as high as \$10.60, a few excellent steer calves going as high as \$13.50.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Oct. 15, 1940	Sept. 16, 1940	Oct. 16, 1939
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$13.25-13.90	\$12.00-13.50	\$ 9.75-10.75
Slaughter Steers—Good	11.00-13.25	9.75-12.50	8.75-10.00
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	12.50-13.50	11.50-13.00	10.25-11.00
Slaughter Steers—Good	10.75-12.50	9.75-11.50	9.00-10.00
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)	8.00-11.00	7.75- 9.75	7.75- 9.00
Fed Young Steers—Gd-Ch. (750-900 lbs.)	10.75-13.00	9.75-12.75	9.25-11.25
Heifers—Good-Choice	10.75-12.50	10.00-12.25	9.50-11.25
Cows—Good	7.00- 7.50	6.75- 7.75	6.50- 7.25
Vealers—Good-Choice	10.50-12.00	11.50-12.50	10.50-12.00
Calves—Good-Choice	8.00- 9.00	8.00- 9.00	8.00- 9.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Gd-Ch.	9.00-11.25	8.75-10.75	8.50-10.25
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	6.75- 9.00	7.00- 8.75	7.00- 8.50
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-240 lbs.)	6.50- 6.75	6.60- 6.80	7.15- 7.40
Spring Lambs—Good-Choice	9.25- 9.50	9.15- 9.50	9.35- 9.60
Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice	7.40- 8.00	7.00- 8.00	7.10- 8.35
Ewes—Good-Choice	3.50- 4.50	3.00- 4.00	3.25- 4.00

CHICAGO WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES

	Oct. 15, 1940	Sept. 16, 1940	Oct. 16, 1939
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$19.00-20.00	\$19.50-21.00	\$15.00-16.00
Steer—Good	17.00-19.00	18.50-19.50	14.00-15.00
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	18.50-20.00	18.50-21.00	15.00-17.50
Steer—Good	17.00-19.00	17.50-19.50	14.00-16.00
Yearling Steer—Choice	18.50-20.00	18.50-20.50	17.00-18.00
Yearling Steer—Good	17.00-19.00	17.50-18.50	16.00-17.00
Cow—Commercial*	12.50-14.00	13.00-15.00	11.00-12.00
Veal and Calf—Choice	13.00-18.00	15.00-19.00	16.00-17.00†
Veal and Calf—Good	12.00-16.50	13.00-17.00	15.00-16.00†

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Lamb—Choice (all weights)	14.00-17.00	16.50-19.00	15.00-16.50
Lamb—Good	13.50-16.00	15.50-18.00	14.00-15.50
Ewe—Good	7.00- 8.00	8.00- 9.00	7.00- 8.00

FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loins—8-12 lb. average	17.50-18.50	17.00-19.00	19.50-20.50

*Previous classification "Good." †Veal.

LIVESTOCK AT STOCK YARDS

	September		First Nine Months	
RECEIPTS—	1940	1939	1940	1939
Cattle*	1,562,002	1,467,728	9,945,702	9,921,402
Calves	612,947	648,980	4,513,971	4,781,085
Hogs	2,302,432	1,995,460	24,061,451	19,335,604
Sheep	2,522,699	2,625,309	16,643,321	17,772,593
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—				
Cattle*	803,730	744,002	4,118,437	4,084,187
Calves	279,556	329,596	1,814,662	1,911,359
Hogs	600,657	534,374	6,621,741	5,117,549
Sheep	1,529,998	1,564,093	7,997,256	8,784,395
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—				
Cattle*	489,777	434,383	2,030,882	1,982,158
Calves	113,055	111,718	579,731	566,747
Hogs	35,570	39,205	370,649	369,822
Sheep	610,167	612,946	1,956,501	2,335,012
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—				
Cattle*	811,567	880,343	7,046,671	6,942,514
Calves	416,949	427,469	3,957,771	3,951,401
Hogs	3,168,454	2,885,318	34,432,842	28,149,458
Sheep	1,468,677	1,634,967	12,734,334	12,798,916

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	Oct. 1, 1940†	Sept. 1, 1940	Oct. 1, 1939	5-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	25,689,000	25,649,000	26,691,000	33,903,000
Cured Beef*	10,670,000	10,014,000	10,226,000	14,824,000
Lamb and Mutton	3,412,000	3,192,000	2,965,000	2,384,000
Frozen Pork	86,179,000	141,843,000	67,975,000	61,966,000
Dry Salt Pork*	57,341,000	76,407,000	62,763,000	55,053,000
Pickled Pork*	185,219,000	199,314,000	169,488,000	182,822,000
Miscellaneous	58,258,000	66,971,000	59,392,000	56,065,000
Total Meats	426,768,000	523,390,000	399,500,000	407,017,000
Lard	234,594,000	272,290,000	78,794,000	77,700,000
Frozen Poultry	90,446,000	82,178,000	63,164,000	61,328,000
Creamery Butter	127,971,000	134,266,000	154,594,000	148,330,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	9,771,000	11,403,000	8,901,000	9,172,000

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN RANGE AND LIVESTOCK REPORT

BY OCTOBER 1 WESTERN RANGE conditions were generally improved and conditions were much better than a year ago, according to the Denver regional office of the Agricultural Marketing Service. There was a marked improvement in range conditions in the states west of the main range in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Kansas, with a slight decline in the Dakotas and the Southwest. Winter feed supplies are generally ample except in local areas that were dry during the summer. Livestock is in good to very good condition.

Condition by states was reported as summarized below:

Arizona.—Ranges continued improvement; feed and water generally sufficient; cattle and calves excellent; fall lambs in satisfactory weights.

California.—Native mature feed, stubble, and other field feeds ample at present; surplus hay, grain, and supplements; some new feed in northern areas, particularly along north coast, started; hay and grain selling relatively low; most stock excellent.

Colorado.—Ranges and pastures show improvement; fall and winter feed and winter feed prospects improved; stock in good condition; those marketed show good weights.

Idaho.—Ranges made record comeback; good growth new feed on lower ranges; ample stock water; hay and feed crops very good; stock in good to very good condition; considerable wool sold.

Kansas (western).—Wheat pasture prospects in west good to excellent; feed crops above normal except in few north-central counties; cattle improved; stock moving into western Kansas in considerable volume.

Montana.—Range and stock water improved, particularly in western two-thirds of state; conditions favorable for late feed crops and field feeds; winter feed supplies good; stock in very good condition; feeder stock somewhat lighter than last year.

Nebraska (western).—Range prospects better, but forage short in many areas; wild hay crop short but some counties have fair carryover; cattle moving little earlier than usual and sold close in most counties; cattle generally in good condition.

Nevada.—Fall and winter ranges and meadow pastures improved; some new feed on lower ranges, but rains came too late for high ranges; bulk of cattle and lambs shipped; stock generally in good condition.

New Mexico.—Ranges in lower and eastern sections dried rapidly; high ranges very good; stock in very good condition; contracting of cattle and calves heavy at higher prices; lamb contracting fairly active.

North Dakota.—Winter range feed

good in western areas; feed production ample in all sections; surplus in some; stock in good flesh and better than average.

Oklahoma.—Stock and range best for October since 1927; winter grain pasture prospects good and feed crops large; cattle marketings heavy; good stocker and feeder cattle demand; cattle in good condition.

Oregon.—Fall and winter range prospects best in years; new feed made good growth in some areas; ranges above average; cattle and sheep in good condition; good out-of-state demand for feeder cattle and lambs; light local demand for breeding stock.

South Dakota (western).—Winter ranges good in northwest and fair to good in southwest and south-central; short feed in limited areas; stock water low in many areas; feed crops good in northwest; fairly good supply in other West River areas; stock in very good condition.

Texas.—Range declined more than usual; generally good supply dry range feed; some local areas have short feed; good crop feeds harvested; range feeds and feed crops much better than year ago; early wheat growing well but moisture needed; cattle and sheep in very good condition; good cattle and feeder lamb demand; very heavy shipments during September.

Utah.—Marked improvement in ranges and pastures; some new grass on lower ranges; generally ample moisture for lower and intermediate ranges; improved feed prospects on winter ranges; stock in good condition.

Washington.—Marked improvement in ranges; fall and winter range prospects good, especially in Palouse and Snake River areas; hay and other feeds abundant; strong feeder cattle demand; ewe bands largely on pastures; growers selling some wool.

Wyoming.—Winter range feed fair to good; short range forage in areas dry during summer; feed ample, except in dry areas; cattle show good weight and finish; lambs about average weights; stock in good condition.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT on October 10 estimated 1940 corn production as of October 1 at 2,352,185,000 bushels, compared with 1939 production of 2,619,137,000 bushels and a ten-year average of 2,299,342,000 bushels. The estimate on September 1 was 2,297,186,000 bushels. Productions of all types of wheat for the year was estimated at 792,332,000 bushels, compared with 754,971,000 bushels in 1939, a ten-year average of 754,685,000 bushels, and a September 1 estimate of 783,560,000 bushels. Spring wheat estimates totaled 236,493,000 bushels, compared with 191,540,000 bushels last year and a September 1 figure of 227,721,000



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bushels. Winter wheat production this year totaled 555,839,000 bushels. Indicated yield of oats was estimated at 1,218,273,000 bushels for 1940, in comparison with 937,215,000 in 1939 and a ten-year average yield of 1,024,852,000 bushels. The estimate as of September 1 was 1,206,901,000 bushels. [Could it be, by any chance, that the farmers have not heard about the reduction program? —Ed.]

MEAT PACKERS' PRODUCTION

Last year's production of the meat packing industry, one of the three largest industries in the United States, was valued at \$2,649,292,810, the Department of Commerce reports. The industry employed 120,467 wage earners who received \$162,180,141. Salaried personnel, exclusive of those in administrative offices, numbered 17,156, who received

\$40,002,900. In comparison with the last previous census of manufactures in 1937, the value of products dropped 5 per cent. There were 1,516 establishments in operation in 1939—an increase of 30.7 per cent over the 1937 period. Production by these plants represented approximately 100 pounds of meat for each person in the United States.

HIDES FOR DEFENSE

Leather requirements under the defense program have been estimated at from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 cattle hides by H. M. McAdoo, president of the United States Leather Company. Normal commercial demands range from 20,000,000 to 22,000,000 hides. Consumptive rate per man may average between four and five pairs of shoes a year, or about twice the rate of civilian consumption. The demand therefore might be anywhere from 5,000,000 to 7,000,000 pairs annually after the presently contemplated force has been called up, he said.

SUE PACKERS FOR OVERTIME

Suits to recover several million dollars in overtime wages allegedly due employees of four packers under the Fair Labor Standards Act have been filed in federal district court in Chicago by the Packinghouse Workers Organizing Committee, a CIO union. The question involved is whether or not the fourteen-week exemption provisions of the Wages and Hours Act applies to almost all workers, as claimed by packers, or to a relatively small group of slaughterers, dressers, etc., as claimed by the wage-hour administration and plaintiffs. Another suit requiring interpretation of this part of the law is pending in federal district court at Chicago. Outcome of these suits will, of course, affect the entire packing industry. The wage-hour administration has taken the stand in this question that to extend the exempt classifications beyond the present limits would exempt certain occupations and large numbers of employees who process meats which are also processed by other packing-houses which buy their meats in dressed form. The houses which slaughter and dress fresh meat would thus, the administration contends, have an unfair competitive advantage over the others.

SUPPLIES AND PRICES

Supply of beef and veal produced in 1941 will not differ greatly from the 1940 production, with an increase more likely than a decrease, according to the Department of Agriculture. General level of cattle prices is expected to be higher than in 1940. Slaughter supply of sheep and lamb will not show much change. Prices of lamb for the coming fed-lamb season will undoubtedly be higher than

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in the 1939-40 marketing season. For the 1940-41 market year, hog marketings are expected to be 10 per cent smaller than in 1939-40. Hog prices are expected to average materially higher than in the 1939-40 marketing year.

RATES OF GRAZING TESTED

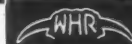
Tests on the Central Plains Experimental Range near Nunn, Colorado, in Weld County have shown that heifers on conservatively stocked shortgrass range gained from ten to fifteen pounds more per month than those on heavily stocked range during 1939 and 1940. The heavily stocked range was stocked at about the same rate used by most ranchmen in eastern Colorado and eastern Wyoming. About one-fifth fewer head of cattle were grazed on what was termed the conservatively stocked range. Two-fifths fewer cattle were pastured on the restricted range. Total weight gains per yearling heifer, from May 1 to September 30, varied from 208.1 pounds to 343.3 pounds, depending on the rate of grazing. Cattle grazed under the restricted rate for the five-month period showed 71.7 pounds more gain than those grazed at the heavy rate on adjoining pasture. In another pair of adjacent pastures the restricted rate showed a gain of 56.4 pounds more per animal than under the conservative rate. The tests also indicated that cattle weighing about 400 pounds on May 1 produce more beef during the grazing season than those weighing more or less than this amount. Tests on the range were conducted by the Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Colorado State College, Fort Collins, in co-operation with the Soil Conservation Service. Cattle used in the tests were supplied by the Crow Valley Livestock Co-operative Association.

INCREASED RATES DENIED

The petition of the Chicago Live Stock Exchange for an increase in commission rates established for that market by the Secretary of Agriculture under provisions of the Packers and Stockyards Act was denied July 27. A hearing was held in this case and an examiner's report issued. Exceptions to the report were filed by the petitioners and oral argument was held before the Secretary of Agriculture. In dismissing the petition, the secretary concluded that the petitioners failed to show that they should be granted an increase in rate. . . . November 18 has been set for a hearing on the reasonableness of yardage rates charged at the National Stock Yards, East St. Louis, Illinois, the Agricultural Marketing Service has announced. The hearing was ordered as a result of increased yardage charges on livestock delivered to the stockyards.

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BUYING BEEF BY GRADE, a new envelope-size bulletin, prepared by the Agricultural Marketing Service to tell consumers how the government grade stamp takes the guesswork out of beef buying. Photographs illustrate the variation between the grades commonly sold in retail stores. Only five grades and their relative position on the quality scale need to be remembered, the publication emphasizes. These are "Prime," "Choice," "Good," "Commercial," and "Utility," each of which is based on certain characteristics of the lean; the quantity, distribution, and properties of the fat; and the proportion of edible meat to bone. Miscellaneous Publication No. 392 may be had on request from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

FEDERAL BEEF GRADING. Miscellaneous Publication No. 391. Write Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price 5 cents. This fifteen-page publication tells how federal grading came about and traces its progress from the time it was started in 1927 to the present time.

1941 FEEDING PRACTICES bulletin. Illustrated. The bulletin is dedicated to 4-H Club and Future Farmer livestock raisers, their leaders, and the farmers and ranchmen in whose footsteps they follow. Feeding information in the bulletin is based upon experiment station and college recommendations. Copies may be obtained from the National Cottonseed Products Association, Santa Fe Building, Dallas, Texas.

MEAT FOR AMERICA'S MILLIONS, is an attractive little book recently prepared by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway and dedicated to the American meat industry. Thirty-five pp., illustrated. It is pointed out that the per capita meat consumption in this country over a period of forty years averaged 141.3 pounds, compared with 321 in New Zealand, 326 pounds in Argentina, and 205 pounds in Australia.

MUSTANGS AND COW-HORSES, prepared by J. Frank Dobie, Mody C. Boatright, and Harry H. Ransom. 450 pp., 40 illustrations. Address Texas Folklore Society, University Station, Austin, Texas. Price \$2.50. An informative, interesting, and compassing book on the range horses of North America. "Cows and Curiosity," the leading article in this issue of the *PRODUCER* by one of the authors of the book, is a sample of the kind of interesting writing the reader will find in *Mustangs and Cow-Horses*.

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